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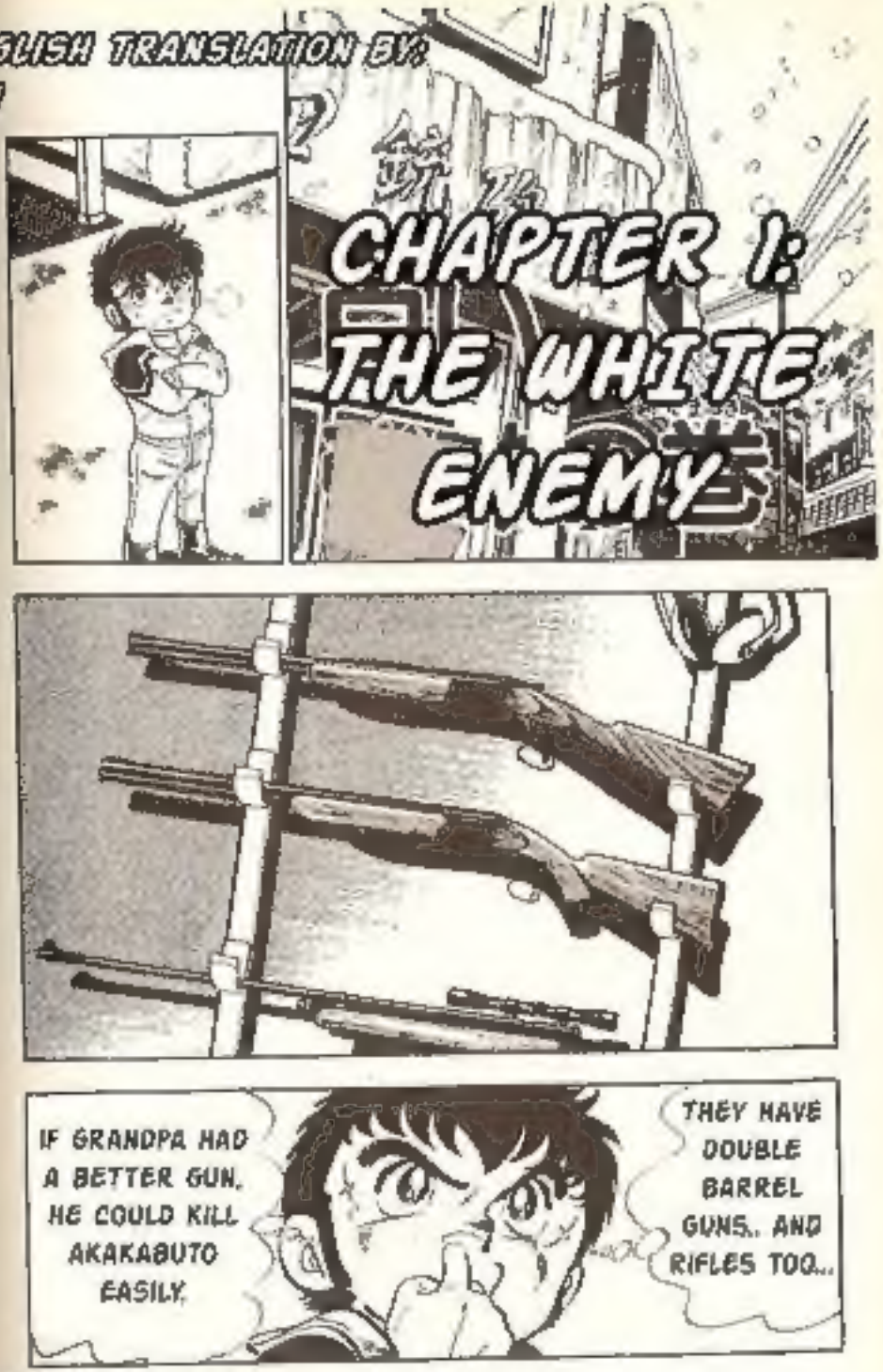
KEI


CHAPTER 1:
THE WHITE ENEMY
IF GRANDPA HAD A BETTER GUN, HE COULD KILL AKAKABUTO EASILY.
THEY HAVE DOUBLE BARREL GUNS.. AND RIFLES TOO...

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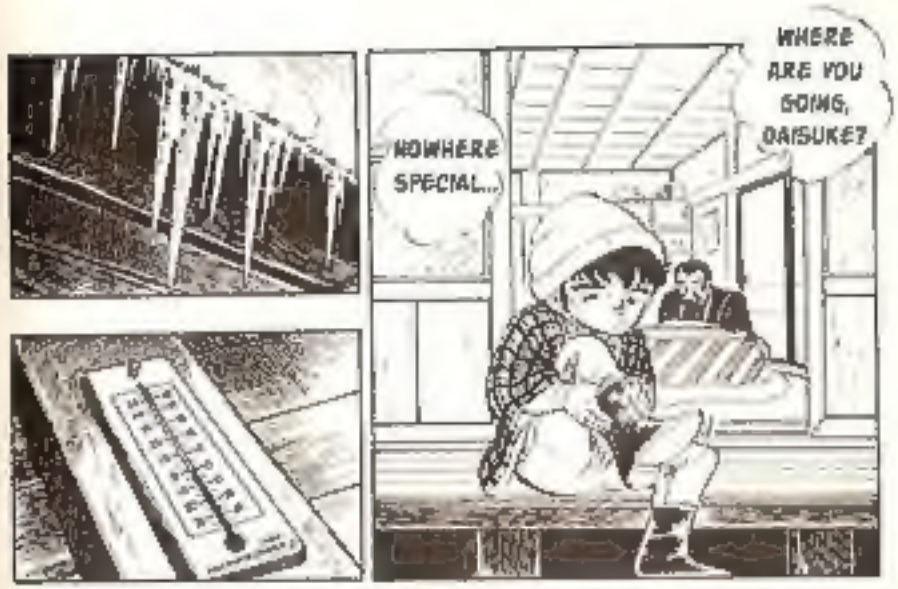
JOHN, WAIT OUTSIDE.
AH, SORRY ...
FOR A SINGLE SHOT.
PLEASE LET ME SEE WHAT RIFLE BULLETS YOU HAVE.
ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO!!
I'M SORRY. ANYWAY, I'VE JUST ARRIVED HERE FORM TOKYO.
COLT

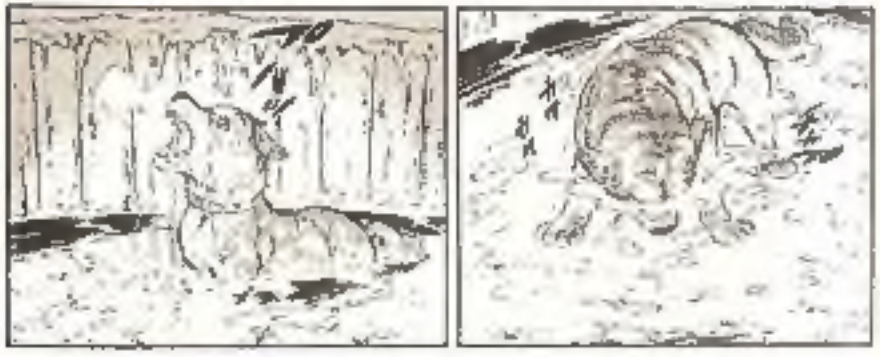
PLEASE WAIT WHILE I CHECK THE STOCK...
NO PROBLEM, SIR.
ALRIGHT.
HE IS EVEN SMART -ER THAN SIR!
WOAH. HE'S WAITING SO PATIENT -LY.


WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DAISUKE?
NOWHERE SPECIAL...

GRANDPA, WHERE'S GIN?

IT'S SO COLD TONIGHT!
UHH! IT'S COLD!

YES.
OUT BACK... OUTSIDE?!
HE'S EATING OUT BACK.



HE WAS DOING THIS TO GET THE FOOD, BUT IT WAS ALSO PART OF HIS TRAINING.
GIN WAS FOUR MONTHS OLD.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GIN!
THIS IS TRAINING?! WHAT GOOD CAN THIS DO?!
HE'S TRAPPED IN THAT WOODEN CONTAINER...

BY NOW, HE HAD TO PUT HIS HEAD UNDERWATER TO GET FOOD.
DAY BY DAY, GOHEI ADDED MORE WATER.
GUH!
GYAH!
FOR GIN TO LIVE, HE HAD TO DIVE TO THE BOTTOM. IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE.
WHEN HE WAS HUNGRY ENOUGH, HE WOULD TRY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM.
WHINE

DON'T INTERFERE, BRAT!
YOU'LL KILL HIM, GRANDPA!
THEREFORE, THIS TRAINING FELT TERRIBLE TO GIN.
DOGS DON'T KNOW HOW TO HOLD THEIR BREATH.
...MASTERED THE DIFFICULT TRAINING WITHIN A WEEK.
BUT GIN, THE CLEVER TORA-GE...
THIS COULD BECOME HIS LIFELINE IN A REAL FIGHT!
DOGS LEARN QUICKER IN A MENTAL SITUATION OF LIFE AND DEATH.

HAHAHA, YOU'LL LOSE GIN!
HEY, COME OVER HERE!

GIN!!
YIPE!

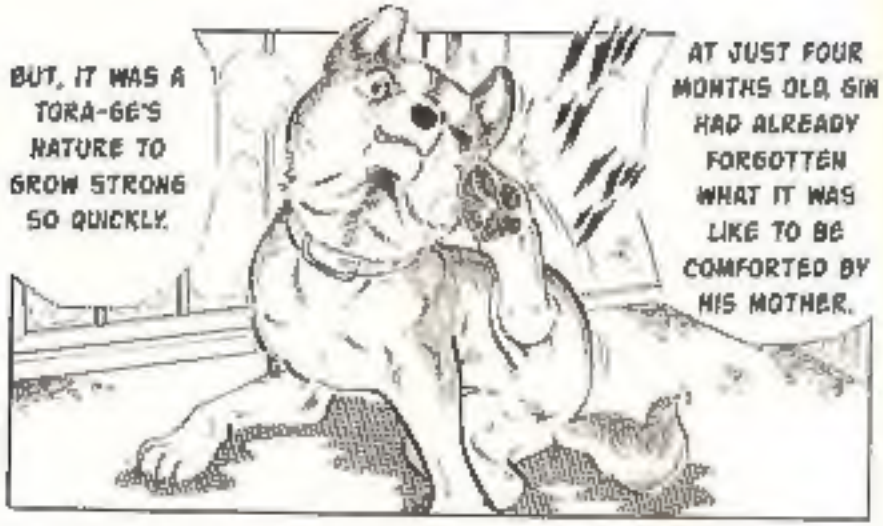
GRANDPA IS HERE!
DAISUKE!

HE DOESN'T USUALLY COME OVER...
WHY IS GRAND -PA HERE?

WELL, HE LOOKS AMAZING!

HAHAHA, STOP IT, YOU!
WAH! GIN!

NO... HE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO.


BUT, IT WAS A TORA-GE'S NATURE TO GROW STRONG SO QUICKLY.
AT JUST FOUR MONTHS OLD, GIN HAD ALREADY FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE COMFORTED BY HIS MOTHER.

G..GRANDPA, ARE YOU GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS? BUT, THE VILLAGE FORBIDS.
UH?
DAISUKE
WELL, WE MUST BE OFF.

COME ON, DAISUKE!
I'VE BEEN GOING THERE AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
I'LL GO [redacted] I WISH!

WHINE
WHINE

WHAT A SCRAPPY LITTLE GUY!
WAH! STOP, GIN!
WHINE
YELP!

WHINE

YOU CAN'T COMPARE HIM TO THE OTHERS ANYMORE.
GIN WAS JUST PLAYING.

GIN IS SO STRONG!
IT WAS TWO AGAINST ONE TOO..

GEEH!
GRANDPA, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU'LL MISS!
HURRY! IT'S GOING TO FLY OVER THE RIVER!
IT'S PART OF YOUR TRAINING.
HEH. WELL, GO AND GET IT, GIN.
IT TOLD YOU TO HURRY! YOU FOOL!
AH, LOOK... IT FELL INTO THE RIVER...
GET IT, GIN!
GO!

THERE IT GOES, GRANDPA!
RIGHT ABOVE YOU!
SQUARK!

I SEE... THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE WATER TRAINING!
GREAT, GIN...
JOHN, BRING IT!

GIN JUMPED FROM THE HEIGHT OF TEN METRES WITHOUT A WINCE OF HESITATION.
KYAAAA!
WOAH!

WAH! WHAT A FLAWLESS DIVE...
AH! I'M SURE IT IS THAT DOG FROM BEFORE...
HEH...
WHAT THE HELL?! IS HE STEALING OUR PREY?!

GRRR!

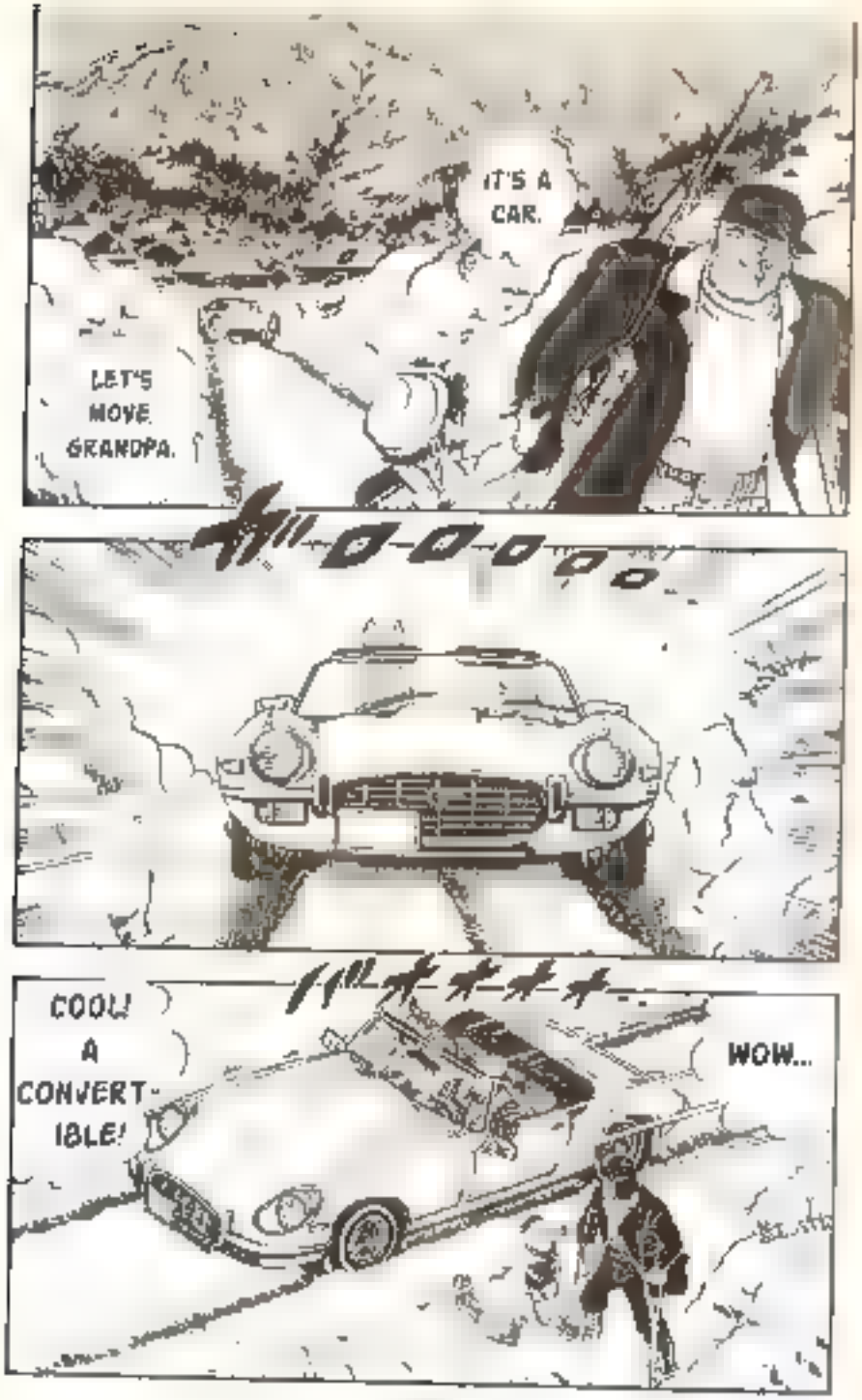
GET IT BACK FROM HIM!
GIN, DON'T RUN AWAY!
HEH. YOU THINK YOU CAN CATCH ME, BRAT?

HE'S STEALING THE BIRD!
AH!

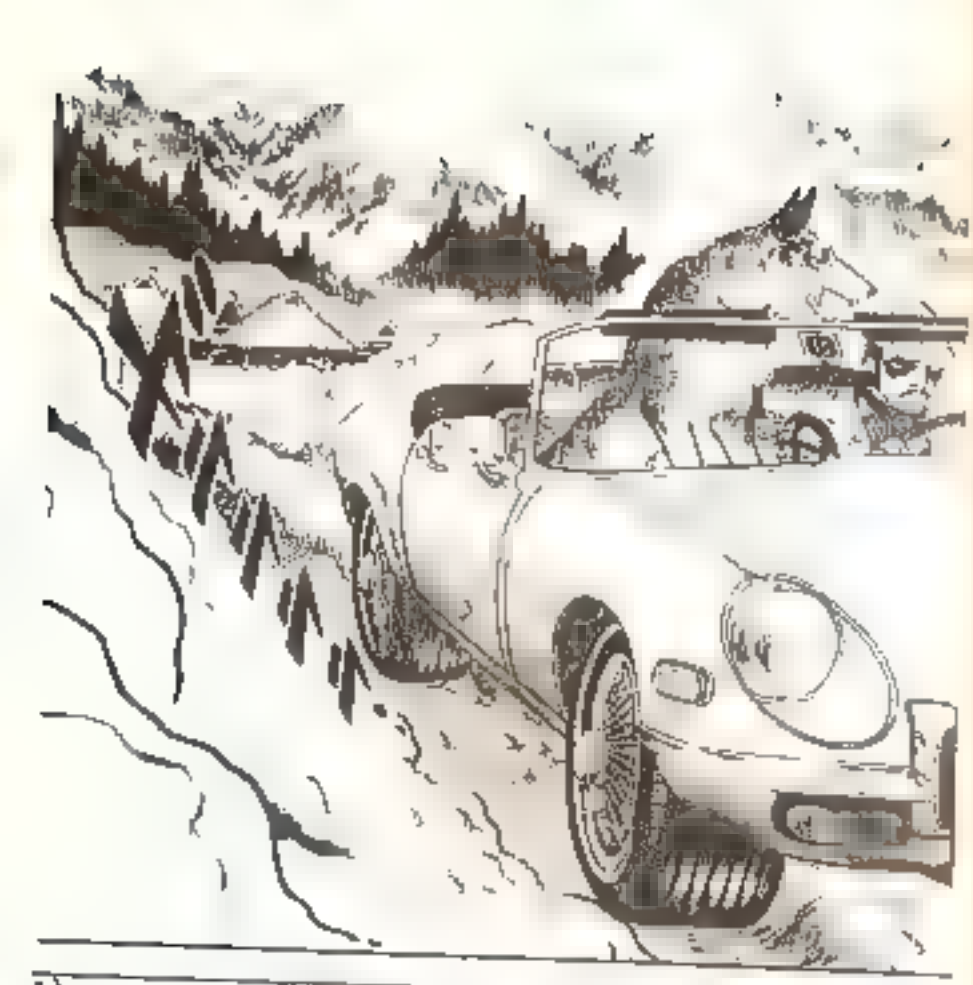
WOW!
HRRRRR
HEH. BRAT STOP FOOLING ME..

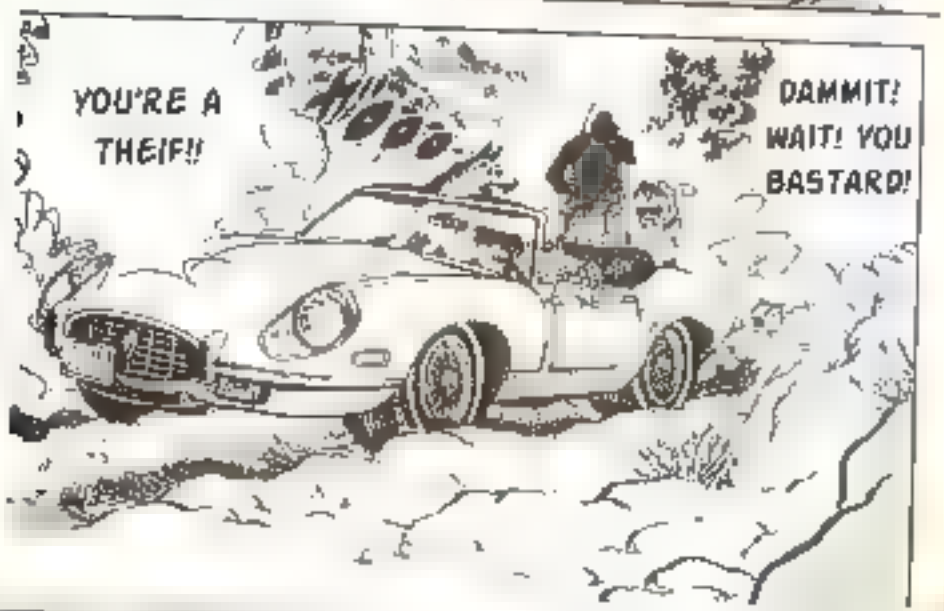
HAH. TEN YEARS TOO SOON.

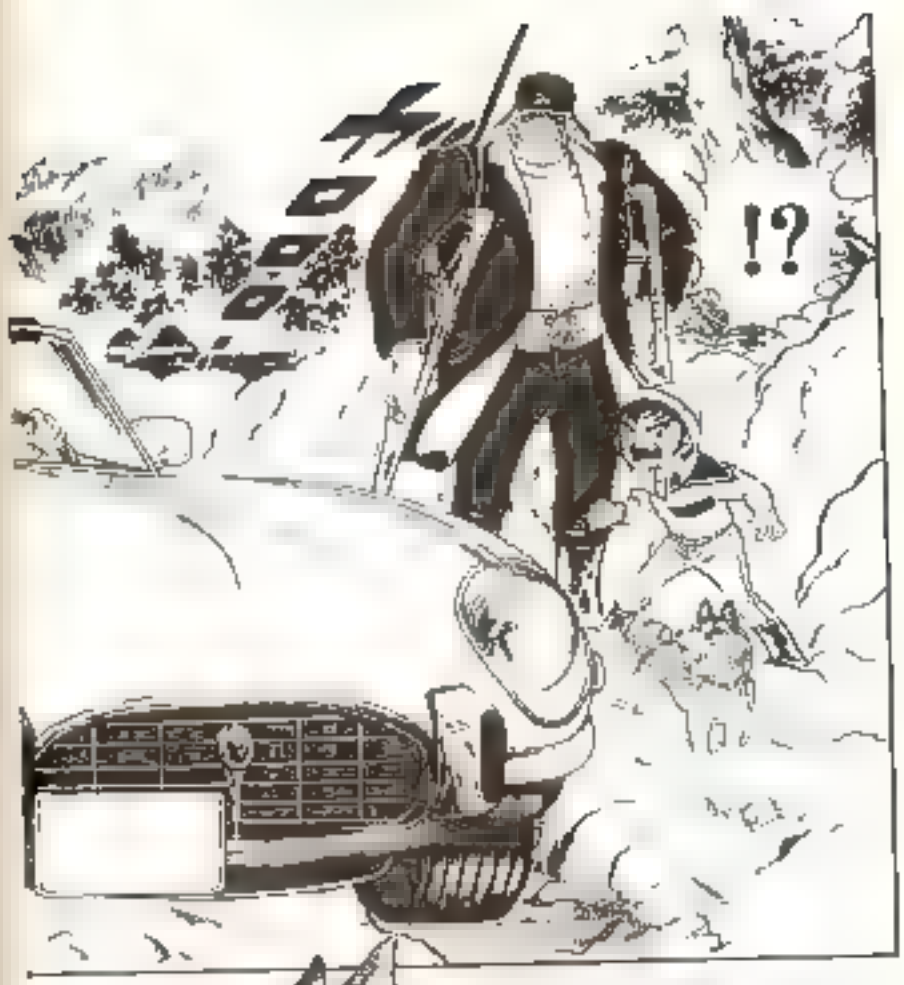
WHA..?!
GIN!!
WHAT THE..


IT'S A CAR.
LET'S MOVE GRANDPA.
COOL! A CONVERT-IBLE!
WOW...

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SHOW SOME PRAISE, GRANDPA?
JEEZ, GIN TRIED THE BEST HE COULD!
DON'T WORRY, GIN. YOU'RE STILL A YOUNG PUPPY.
HE'S JUST A STUB-BORN OLD GUY.



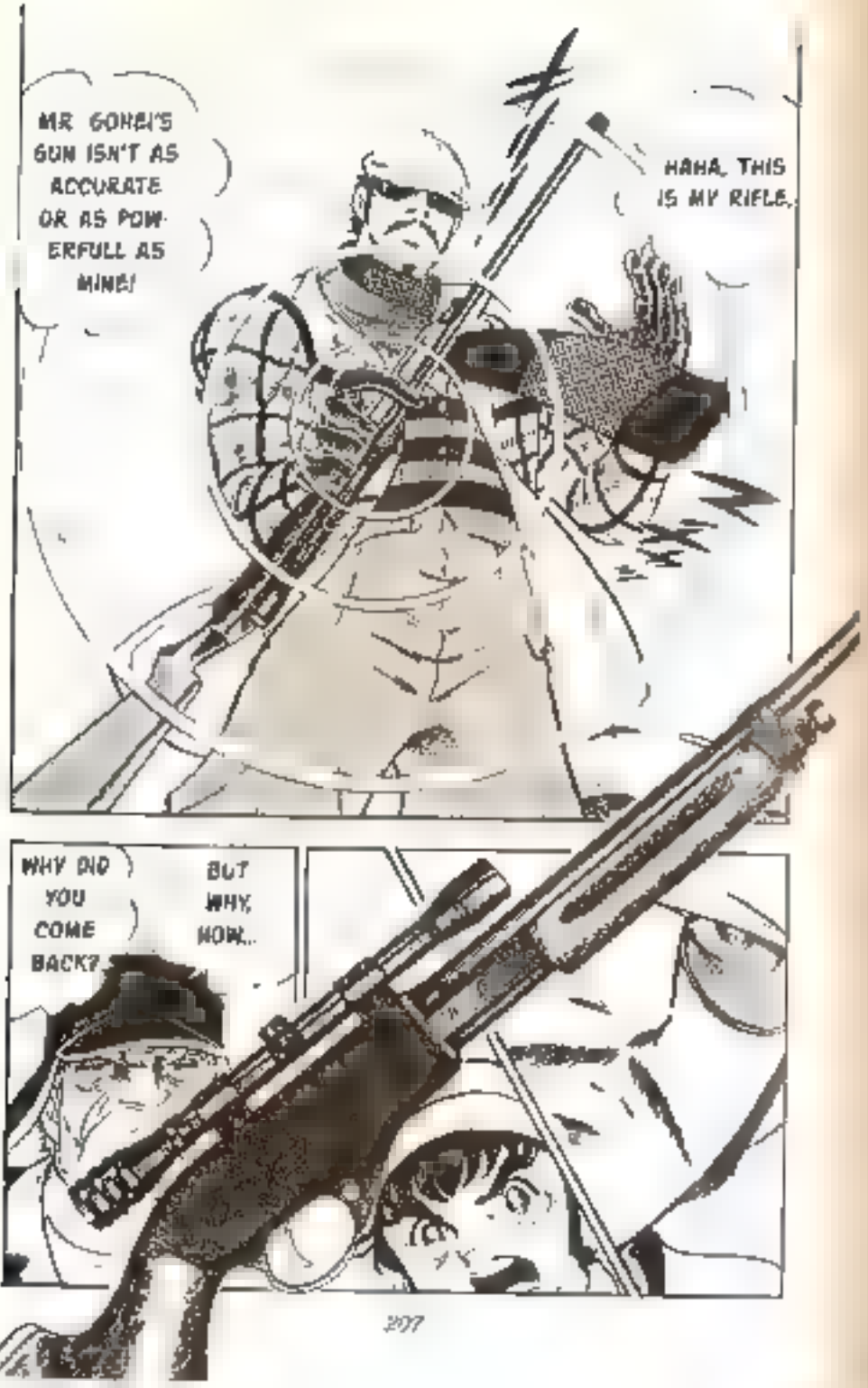

YOU'RE A THEIF!!
DAMMIT! WAIT! YOU BASTARD!


!?

AH! IT'S THAT DOG FROM BEFORE!

HIDE TOSHI!
SON OF THE VILLAGE LEADER. WHO WAS KILLED.
HEY. IT'S ME.
GRANDPA. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
WHO IS THAT GUY?
HE'S JUST A PUPPY. BUT HIS COURAGE IS IMMENSE.
A TORA-GE. HUH? YOU'VE FOUND A GOOD DOG THERE. GRANDPA.

AS EXPECTED. YOU STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO MR. GOHEI.
HEH. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST MET
HUH ?


MR GOREI'S GUN ISN'T AS ACCURATE OR AS POWERFULL AS MINE!
HAHA, THIS IS MY RIFLE.
WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
BUT WHY, HOW..

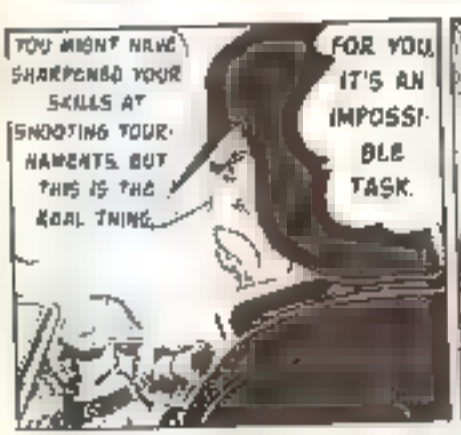
GIVE US BACK THE BIRD WE SHOT!
ENOUGH WITH THE TALKING!
FOR THE EVIDENCE, JUST LOOK AT THE BIRD'S HEAD.
BOY, THE ONE WHO SHOT THE BIRD WAS ME.
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT?!
THE HEAD ?!

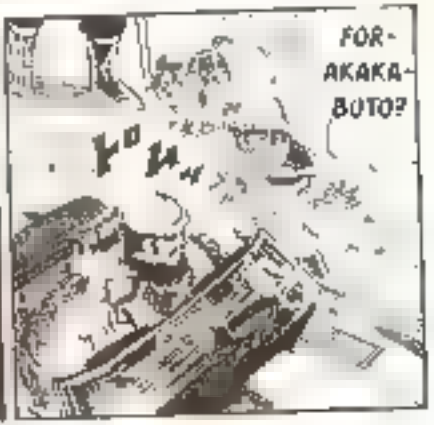
HE'S SO RUDE...

SO, HE CAME HERE TO KILL HIS FATHER'S KILLER...

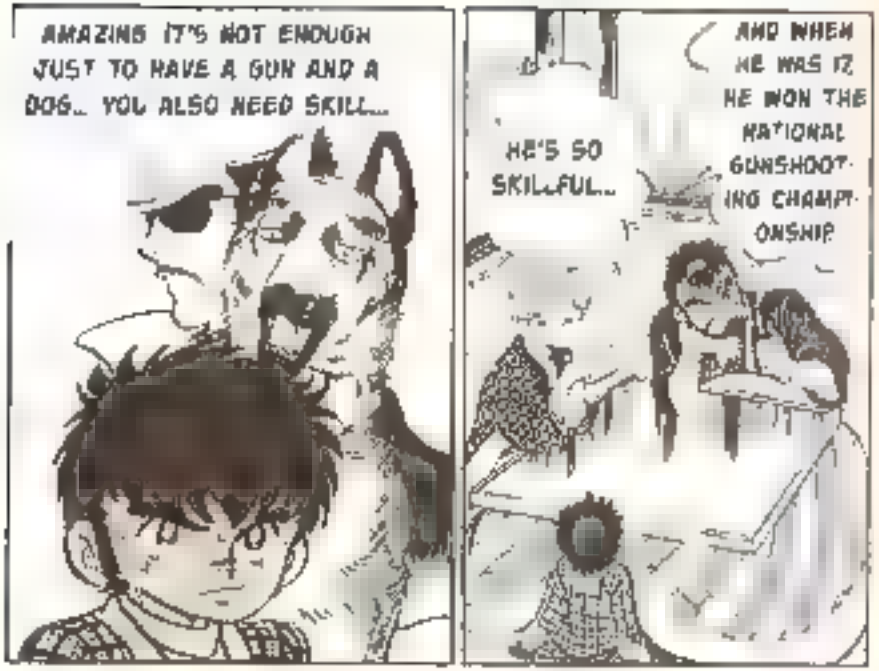
SOMEHOW YOU MUST OUTRIVAL [redacted] GRANDPA.
BUT GOHEI'S GUN... AND GIN IS STILL JUST A PUPPY...
HE HAS A PARTNER - A GREAT HUNTING DOG AND A REAL RIFLE.

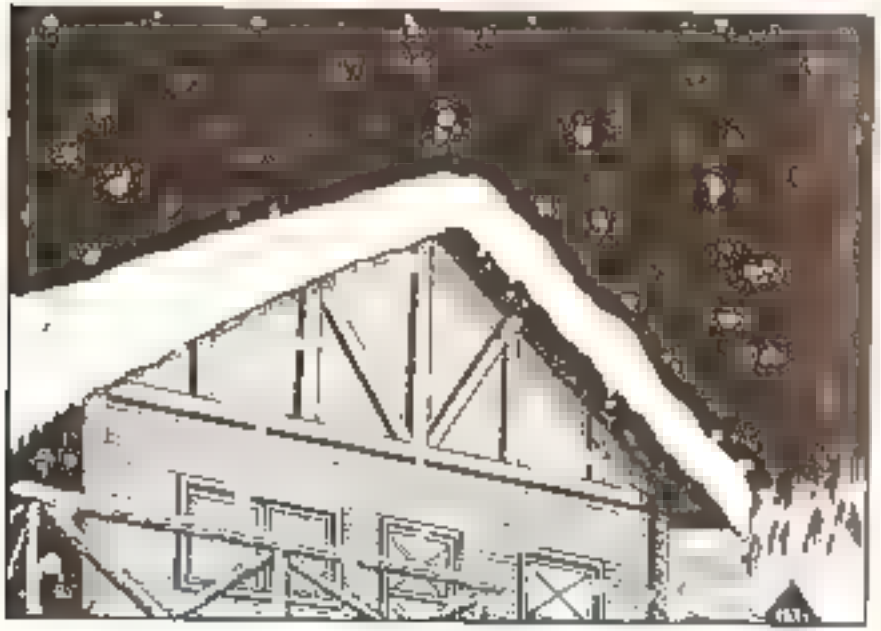
CAN ONLY BE FOR AKAKA-BUTO'S HEAD!
A RIFLE LIKE THIS...


YOU MIGHT HAVE SHARPENED YOUR SKILLS AT SHOOTING TOURNAMENTS, BUT THIS IS THE REAL THING.
FOR YOU, IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK.

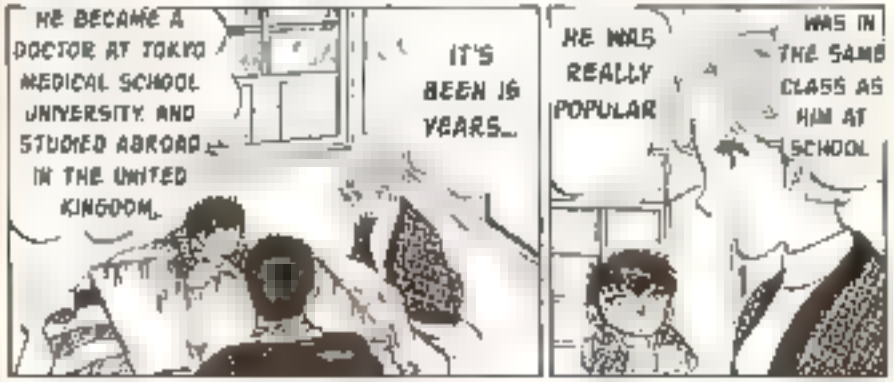

FOR AKAKA-BUTO?

WE CAN COME TO A CONCLUSION VERY SOON.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT


AMAZING! IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO HAVE A GUN AND A DOG... YOU ALSO NEED SKILL...
HE'S SO SKILLFUL...
AND WHEN HE WAS 17, HE WON THE NATIONAL GUNSHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

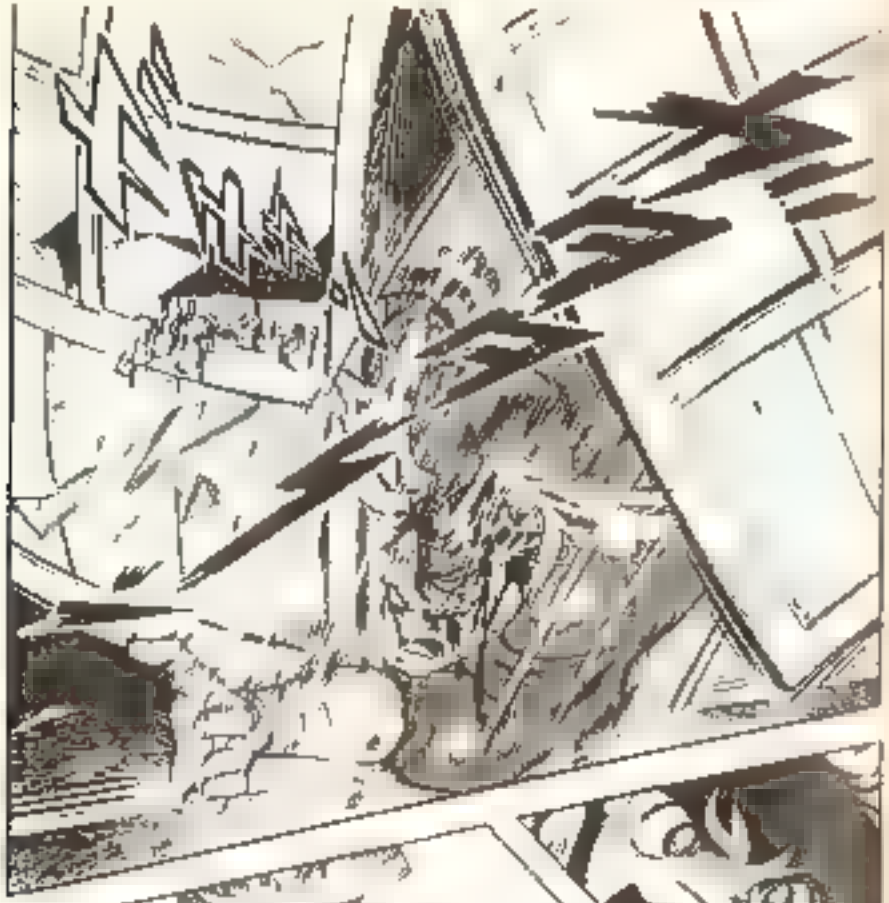


YEAH, IT'S TRUE... GRANDPA SAW HIM.
WHAT?! THE VILLAGE LEADER'S SON CAME BACK?


HE BECAME A DOCTOR AT TOKYO MEDICAL SCHOOL UNIVERSITY AND STUDIED ABROAD IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.
IT'S BEEN 16 YEARS...
HE WAS REALLY POPULAR
WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM AT SCHOOL

WHAT?! THIS WAS A LONG TIME AGO!
YAWN!
IN SCHOOL, ALL OF THE GIRLS LONGED FOR HIM...
HE WAS SO HANDSOME AND GREAT AT SPORTS.

WHEN HE WAS JUST 19, HE WAS PERMITTED TO OWN AND USE AN AIR-RIFLE...
SPEAKING OF HIDETOSHI
I DON'T CARE...



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GINGA NAGAREBOSHI GIN
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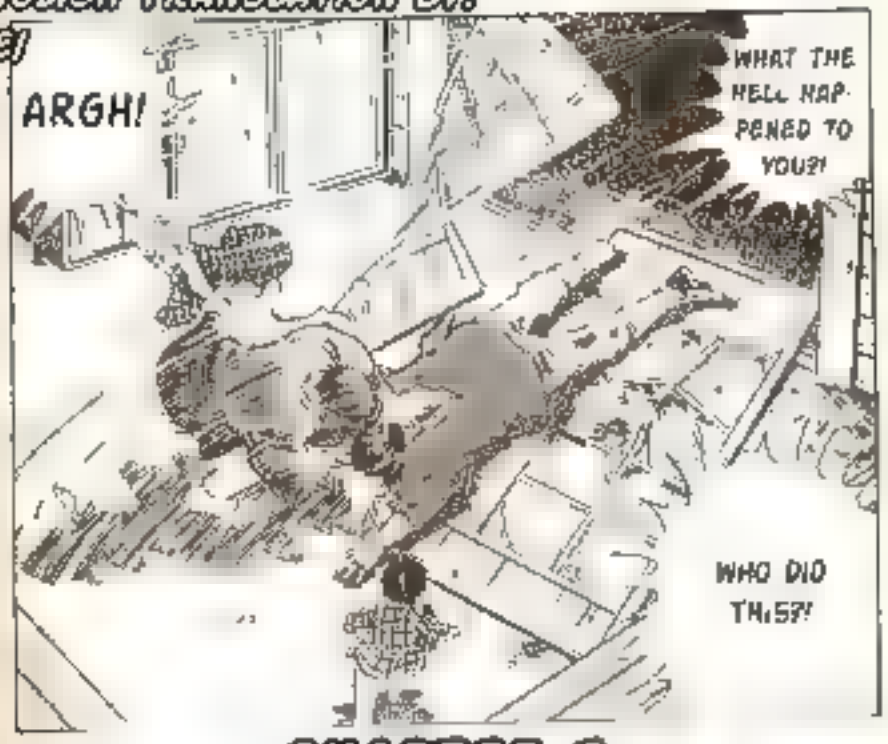
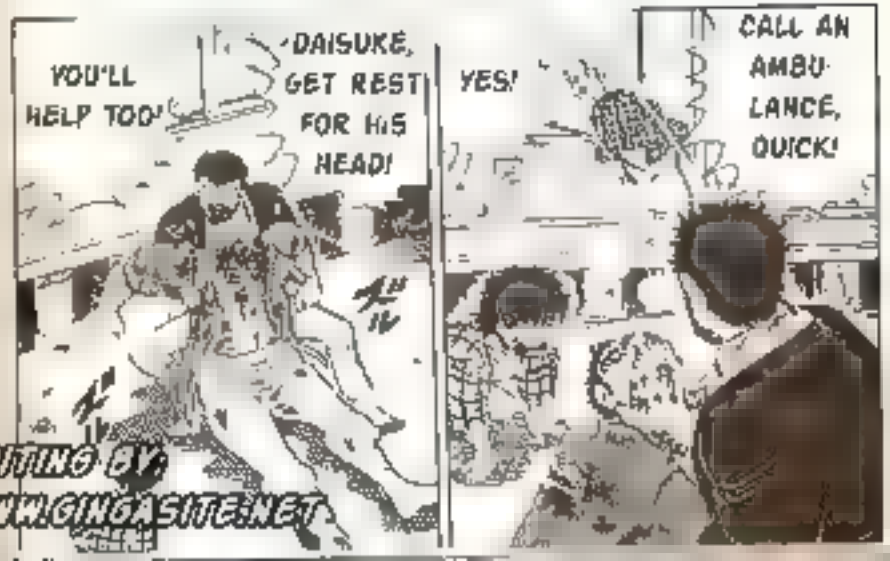


CHAPTER 2:
AKAKABUTO'S FORTRESS SHAKES



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CALL THE POLICE! HURRY!
MRS. THE POLICE!
DAD! GRANDPA IS HERE!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT SHIGE!

THEY ARE UNARMED.. H..HURRY AND HELP THEM, PLEASE.
M..MY FRIENDS ARE STILL IN THE MOUNTAIN HUT
BEFORE I EVEN TOOK A STEP HE WAS ON ME..
HE WAS IN THE RIDGE.. THE DEMON BEAR CHASED ME..
OH DAMN..!
DAISUKE! GET GRANDPA!
H...HURRY AND HELP MY FRIENDS AND MY SON..!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME..

SIGH
YOU DISGUSTING DEMON BEAR..!

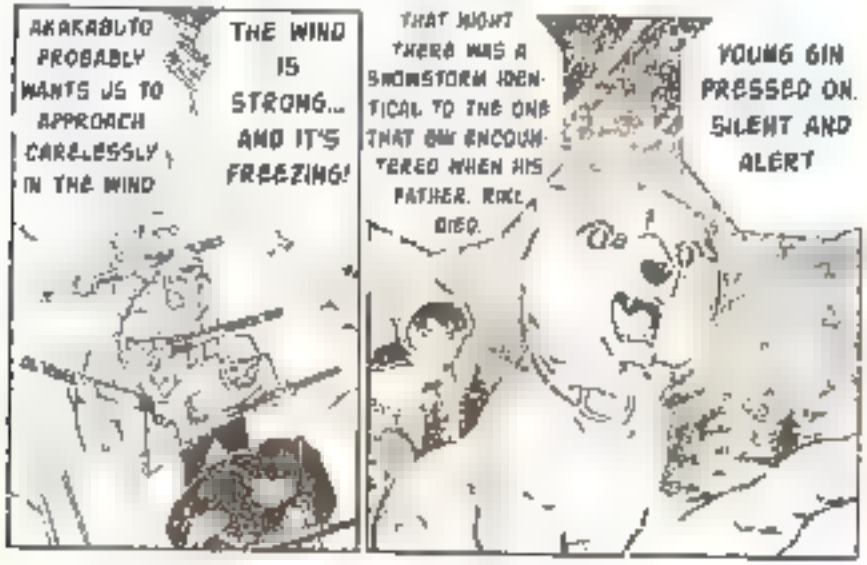
THE DEMON BEAR... AVENGE ME...
DON'T GIVE ME SYMPATHY, GRANDPA TAKEDA.
HE USED TO BE IN HIS BEAR HUNTING GROUP HE WAS THE BEST BEAR HUNTER IN IWATE!
ONE OF GRANDPA TAKEDA'S FRIENDS!
MY SON IS TOO YOUNG TO DIE..!
GRANDPA TAKEDA, PROMISE ME THAT YOU WILL...
GUAAH!
IS AKAKABUTO STILL AROUND THE MOUN-TAIN HUT?!
HEY, SHIGE!

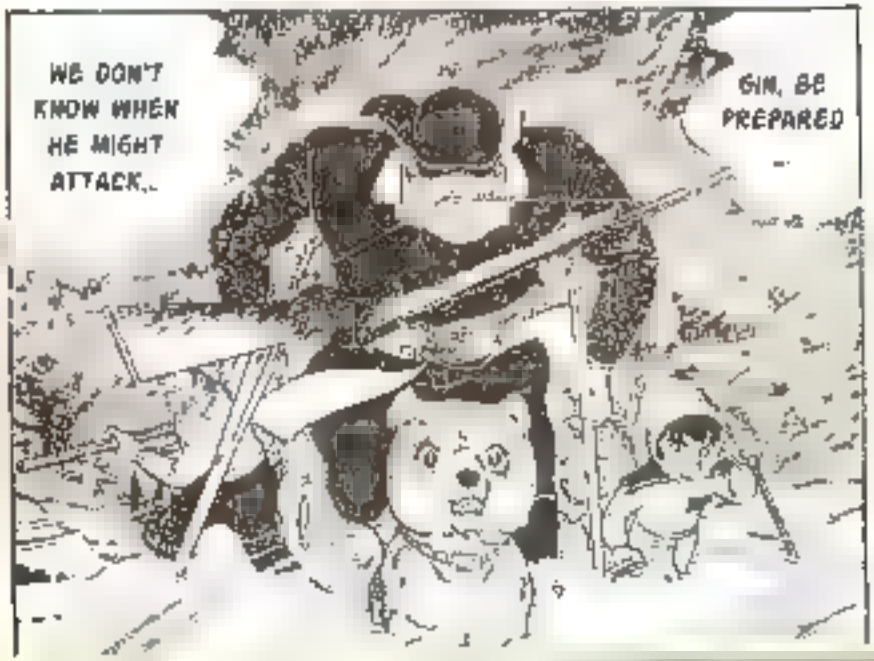
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY IF THEY'RE WITH US!
MUM. I'M GOING WITH THEM!
WE'LL COME WITH YOU!
MR GONG, PLEASE WAIT! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO ALONE!
FOOL! WAIT!
YOU CAN'T TAKE EVERYONE OUT TONIGHT! CAN'T YOU AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL MORNING?!

GRAND -PA
DAISUKE LISTEN..
G..GRANDPA, ARE YOU GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN?
LET'S FINISH HIM..!
LET'S GO, GIN!
IT'S TOO DARK!
GRANDPA, DON'T GO!

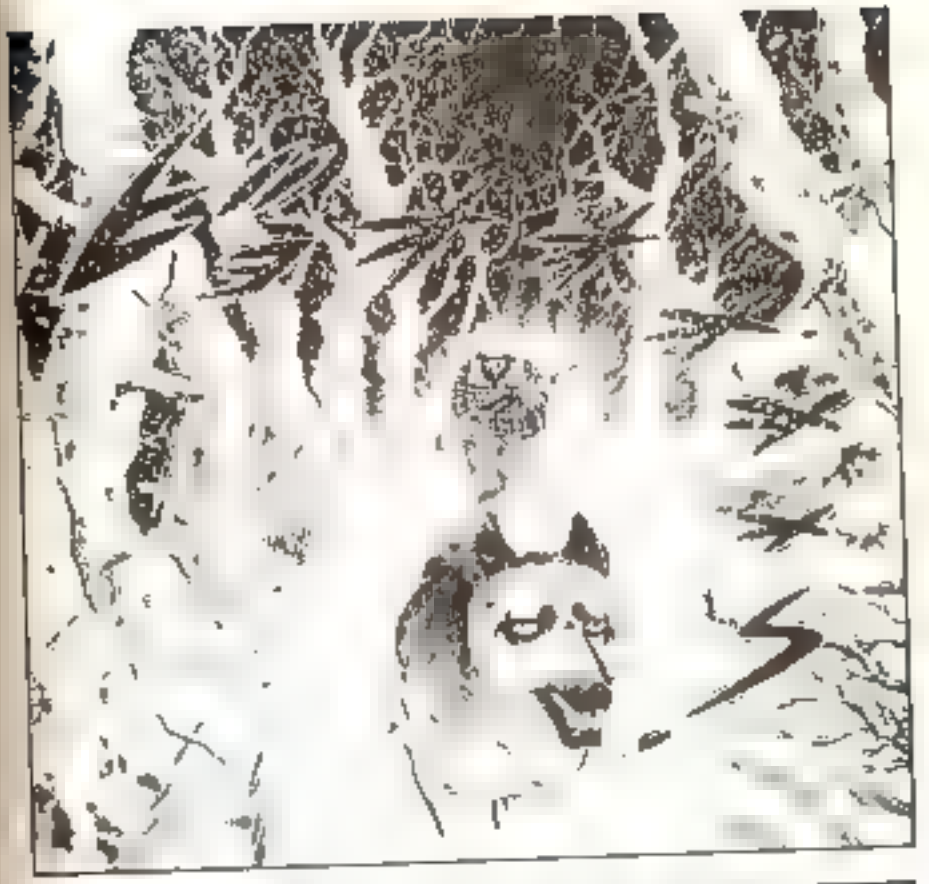
JOHN CAN SMELL AN ANIMAL FROM TWO KILOMETRES AWAY.
I DON'T NEED TO WORRY. I HAVE HIM.
WALK ALONG THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE. FROM THERE AT NIGHT YOU CAN SEE YOUR SURROUNDINGS EASILY.
DON'T GO INTO THE THICKET AT NIGHT. YOU'LL GET KILLED EASILY.

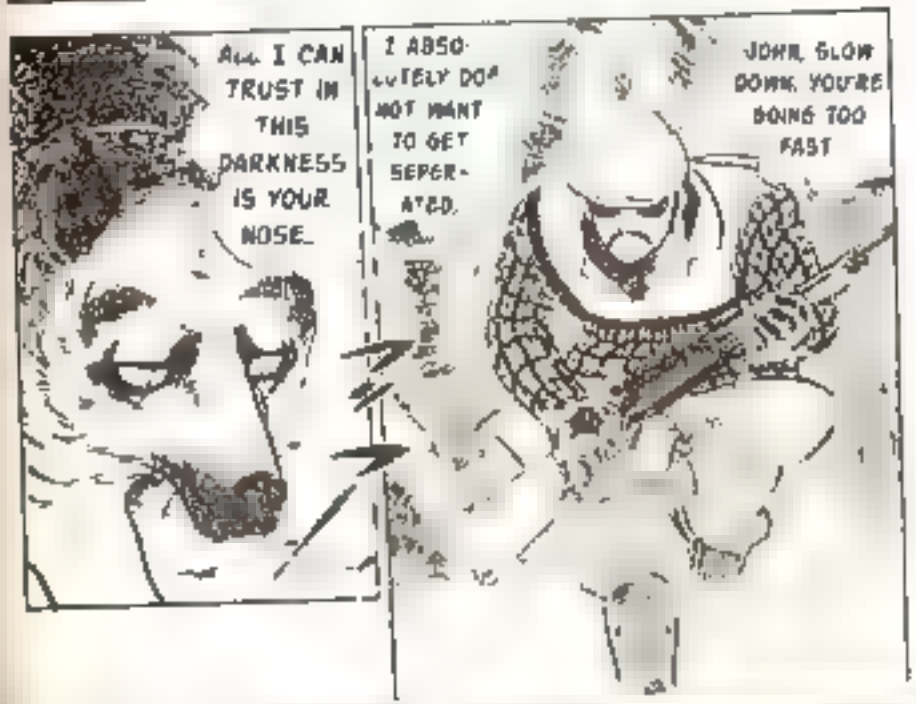
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER.
ARE YOU A FOOL?
I'LL DO IT MY OWN WAY.
THEN I'LL GO TOWARDS KURSHIBA.
GRANDPA TAKEDA IS GOING TOWARDS THE VALLEY. HUH?
PLEASE WAIT. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW STRONG HE IS, HIDETOSHI!
LISTEN TO MY ONE BIT OF ADVICE FOR YOU.
WAIT

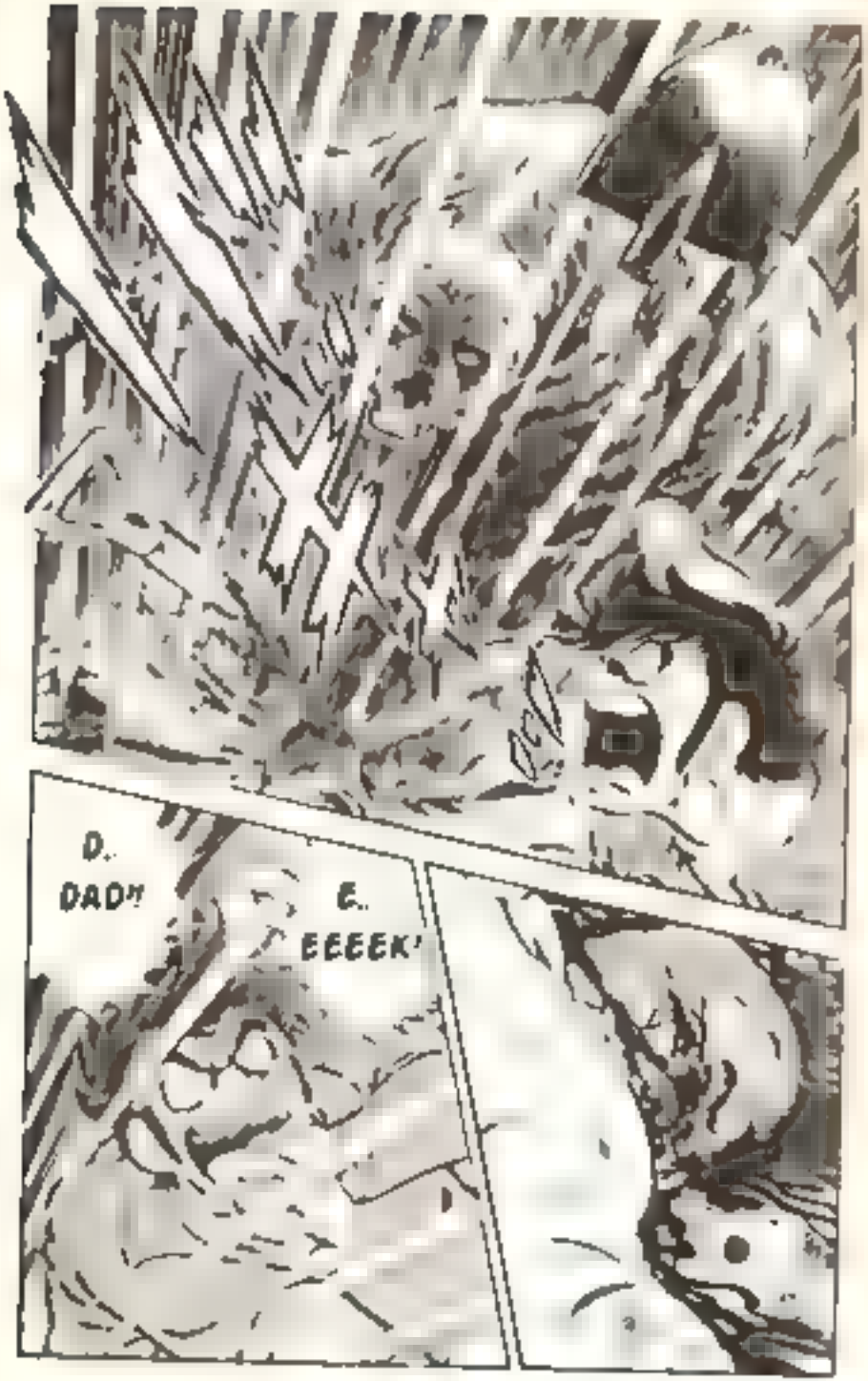

AKAKABUTO PROBABLY WANTS US TO APPROACH CARELESSLY IN THE WIND
THE WIND IS STRONG... AND IT'S FREEZING!
THAT NIGHT THERE WAS A SNOWSTORM IDENTICAL TO THE ONE THAT GIN ENCOUNTERED WHEN HIS FATHER, RIKI, DIED.
YOUNG GIN PRESSED ON, SILENT AND ALERT


WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE MIGHT ATTACK..
GIN, BE PREPARED

GRAAH!
SHIT!
IF HE GETS IN HERE, IT'S ALL OVER!
DON'T COME IN HERE!



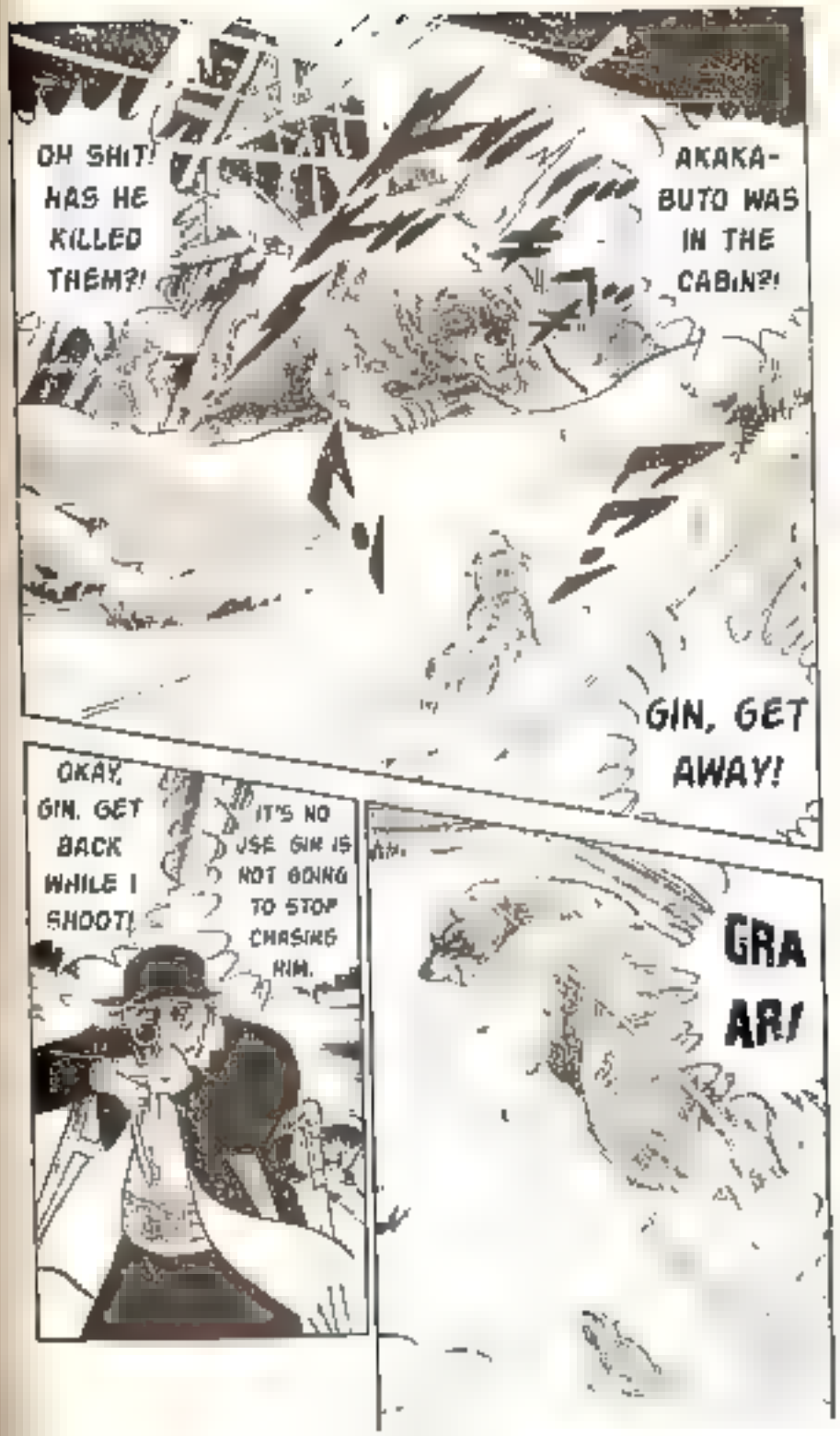

ALL I CAN TRUST IN THIS DARKNESS IS YOUR NOSE.
I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT WANT TO GET SEPERATED.
JOHN, SLOW DOWN. YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST

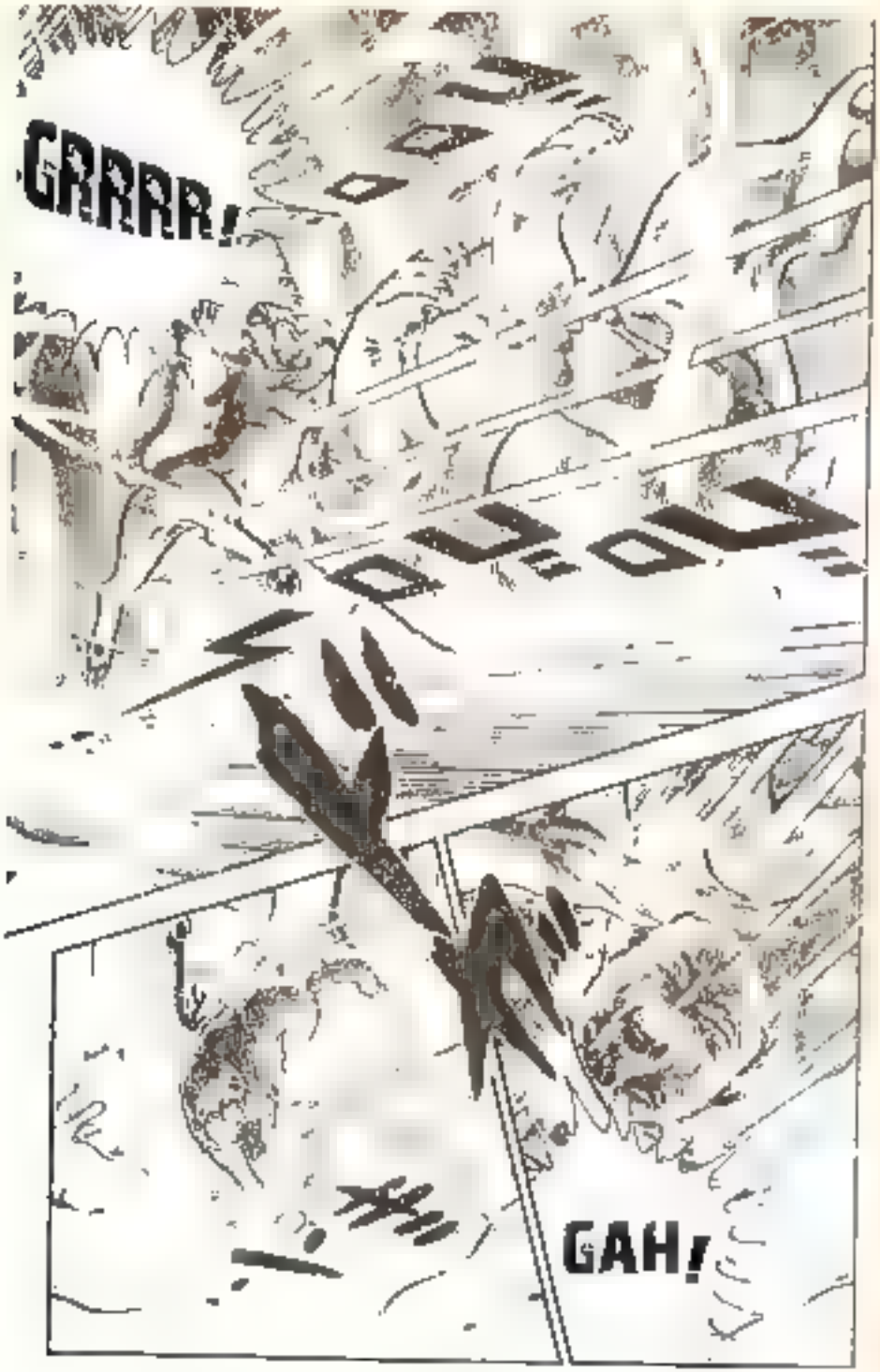

D..
DAD!!
E..
EEEEK!

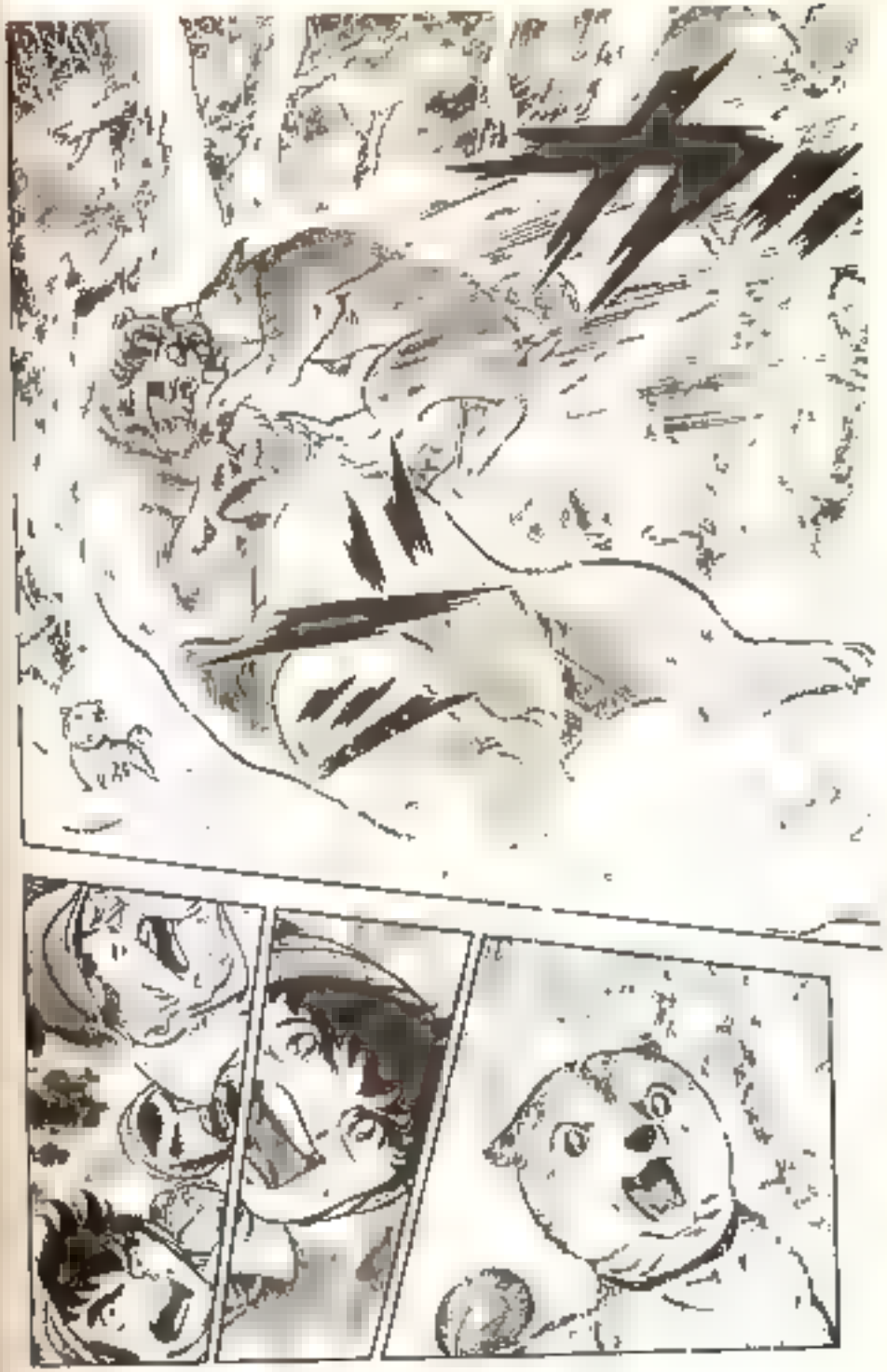
ROAR!!
BASTARD
!

IT CAME FROM THAT CABIN!
AH!
DAISUKE, GET BACK!

RRAAA
AAGH!
GRRR!


OH SHIT! HAS HE KILLED THEM?!
AKAKA-BUTO WAS IN THE CABIN?!
GIN, GET AWAY!
OKAY, GIN. GET BACK WHILE I SHOOT!
IT'S NO USE. GIN IS NOT GOING TO STOP CHASING HIM.
GRA AR!


GRRRR!
GAH!

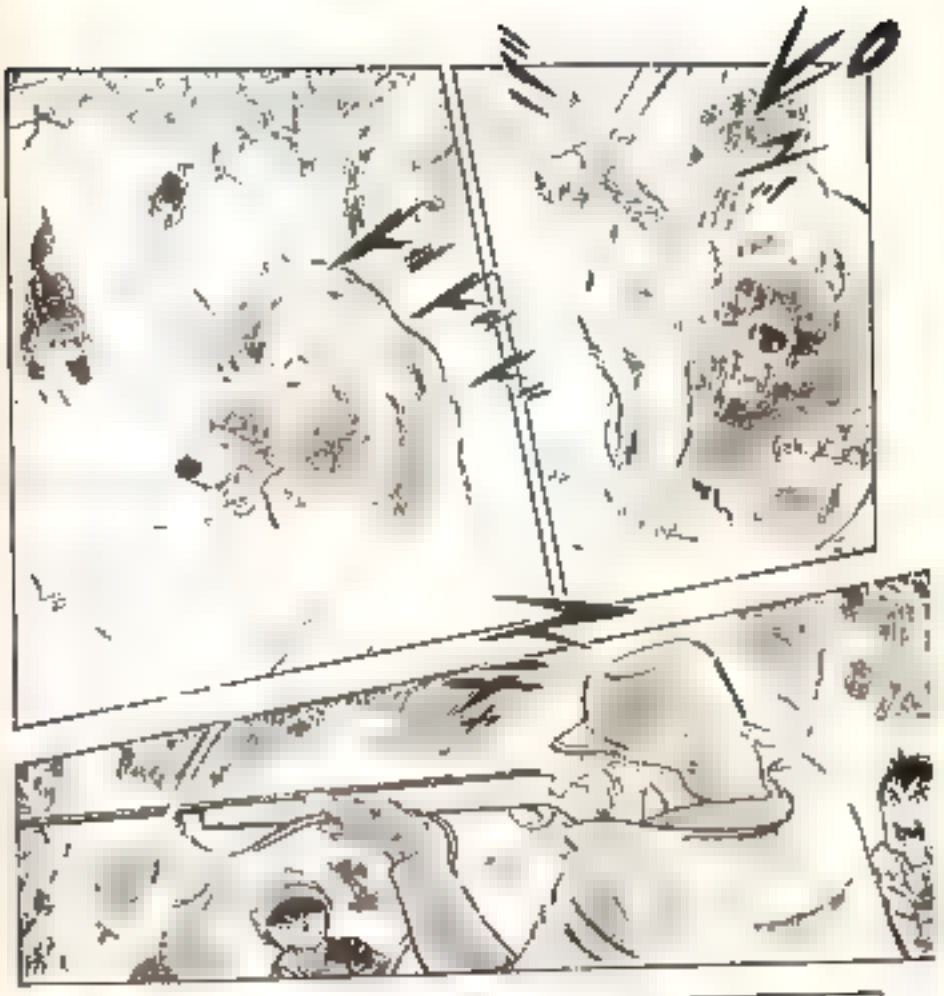


NO!

GRR
...
GRR...

JUST WATCH ME GRANDPA TAKEDA...

JUST WATCH THE POWER OF IT, GOHEI!
THE AMERICAN REMINGTON MODEL 700 CUSTOM!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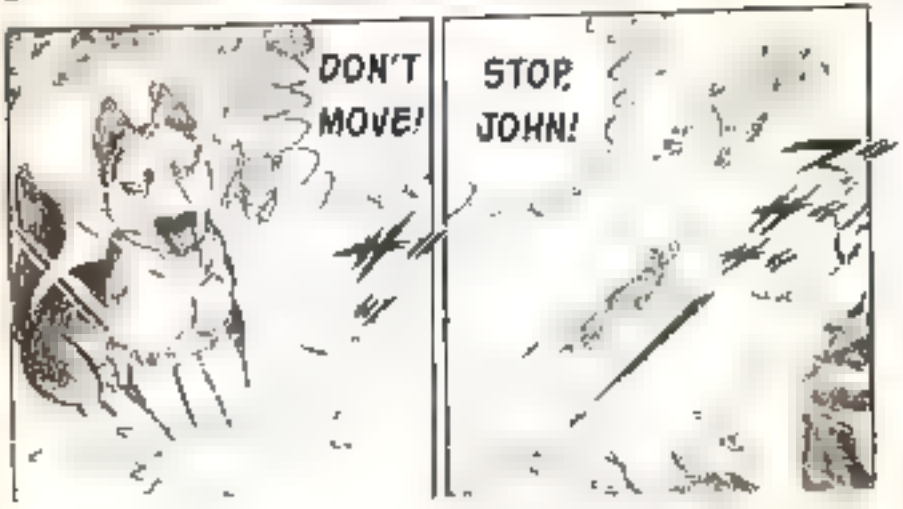
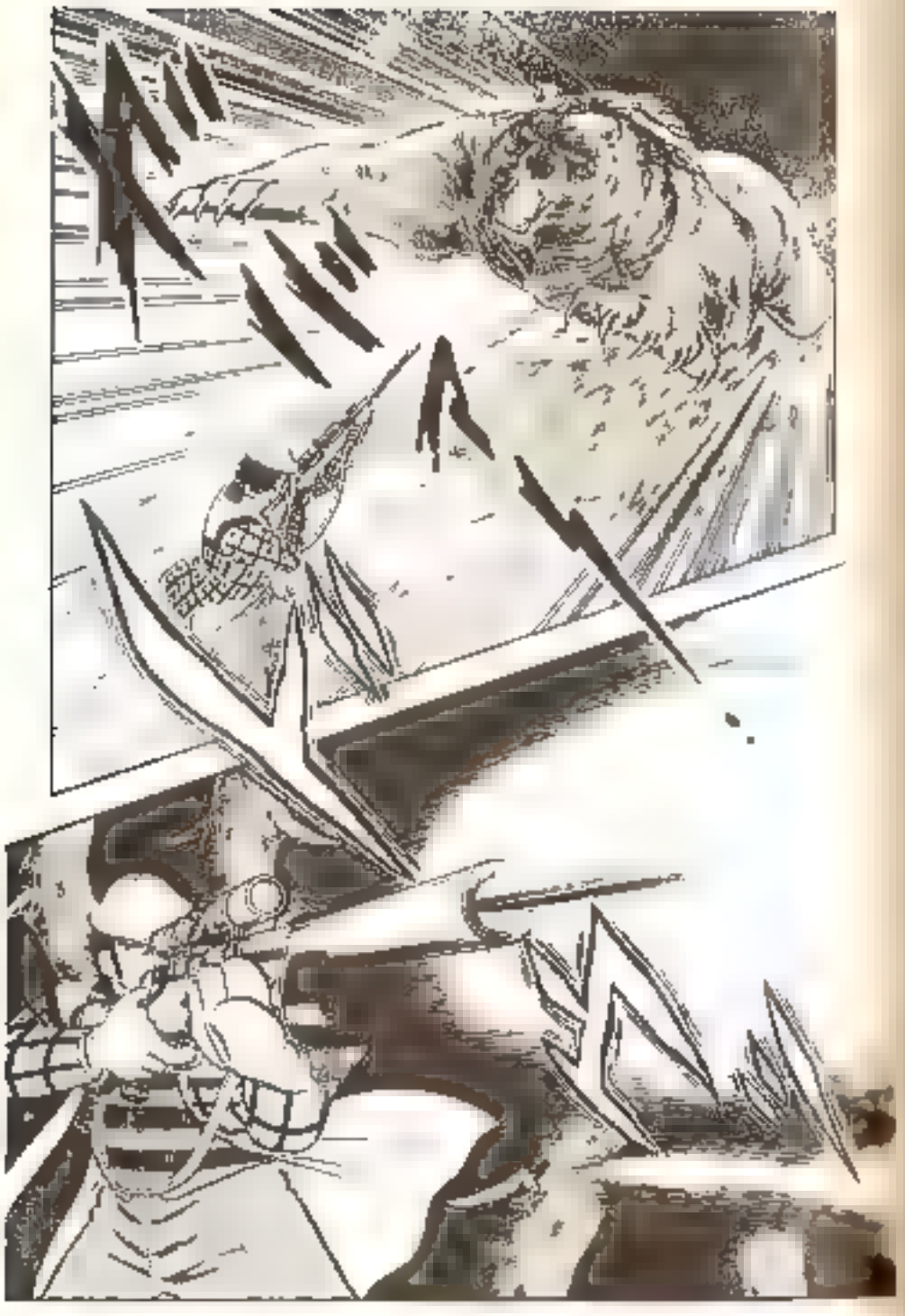
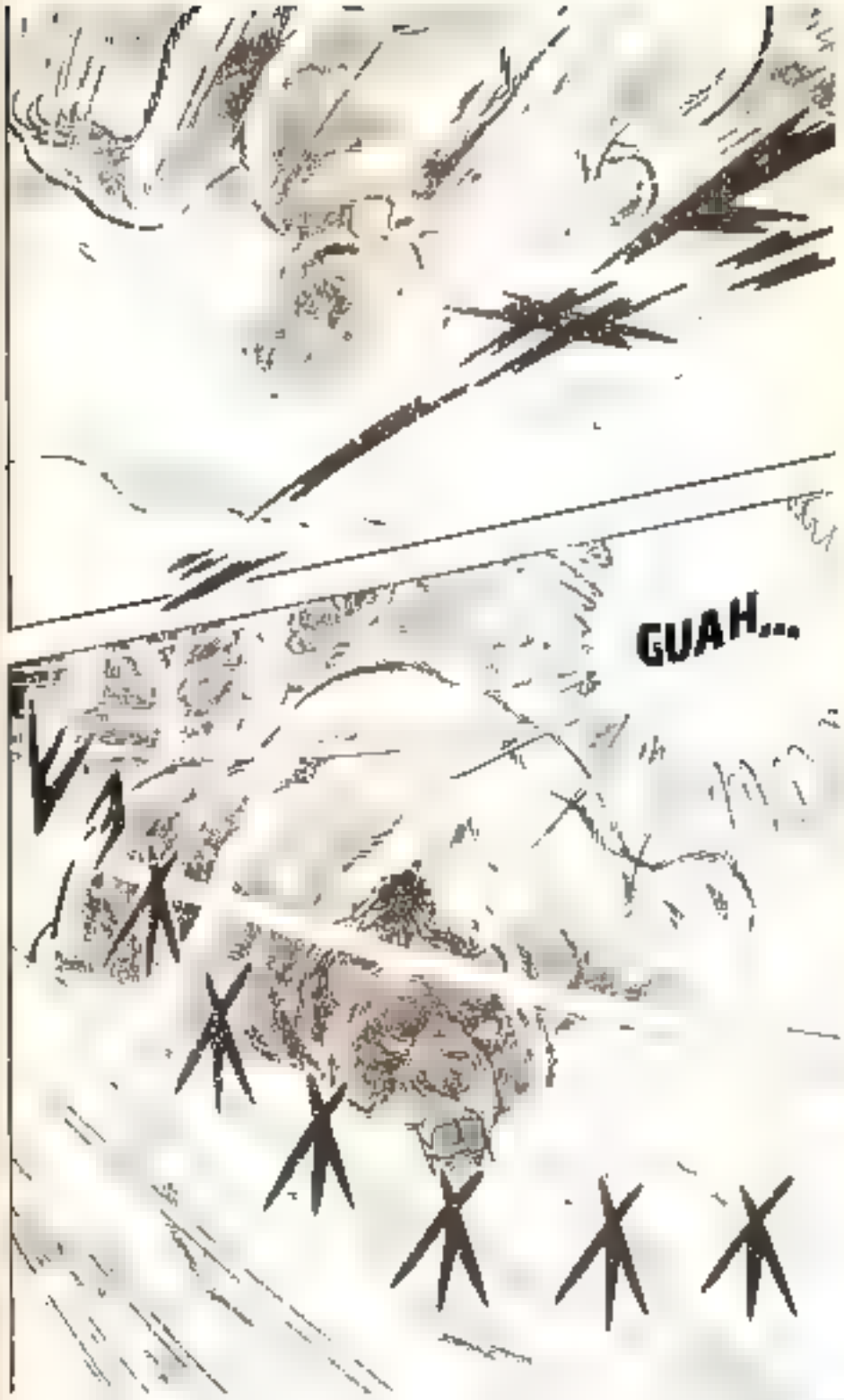
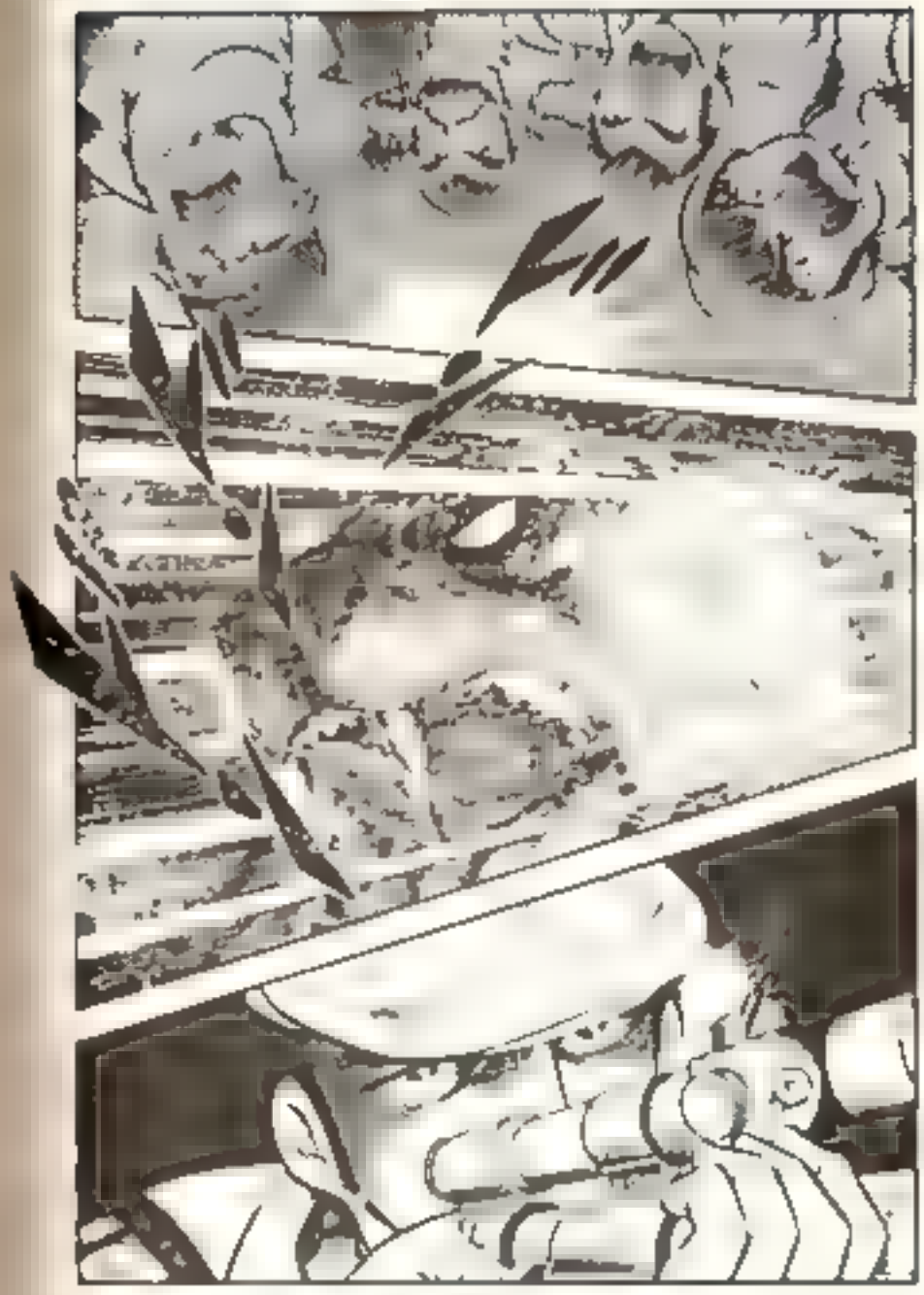

DON'T MOVE!
STOP, JOHN!

WAH!




GUAH...

GUAAH.



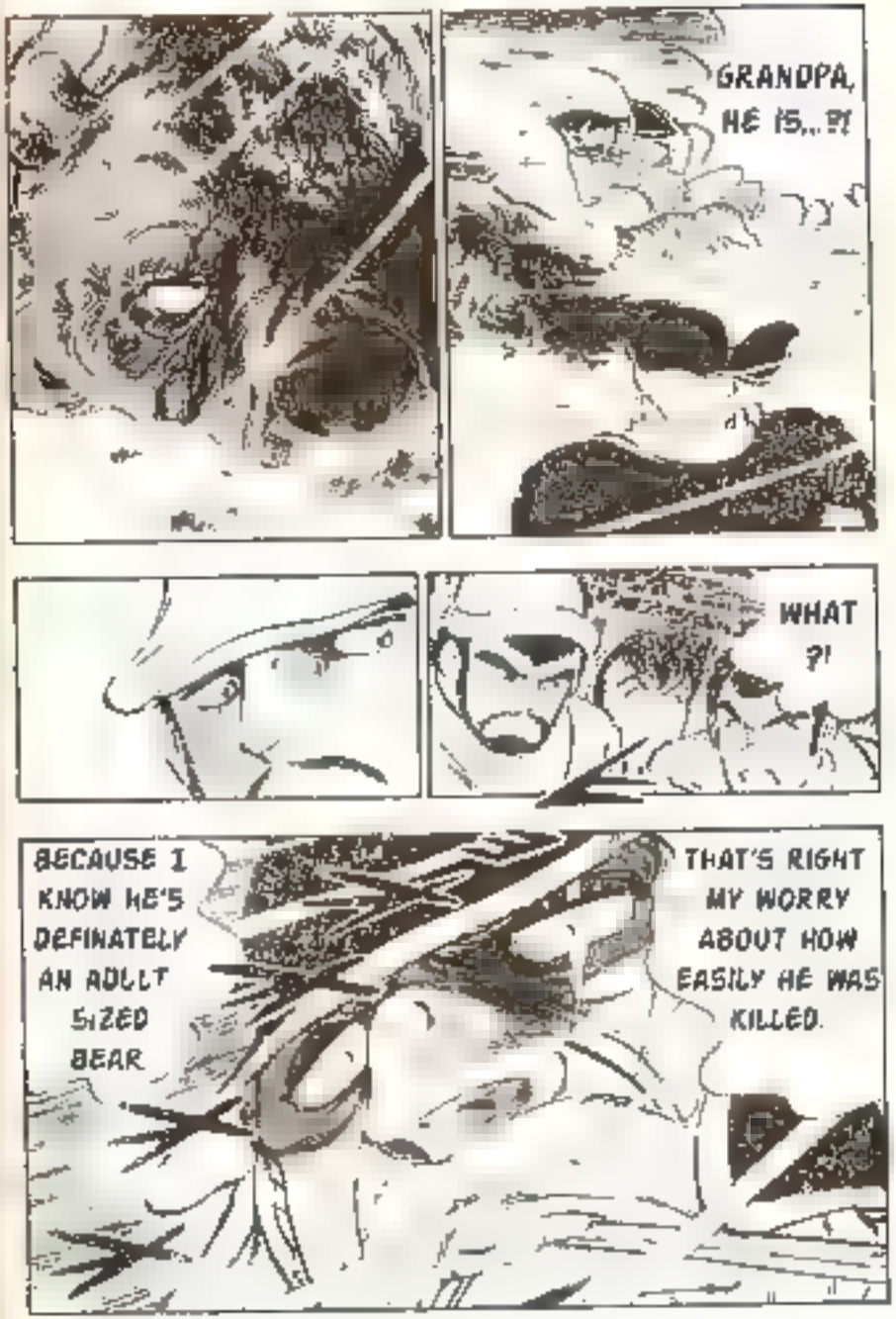
THE ACCURACY AND THE POWER OF T SURPASS EVERYTHING ELSE.
DID YOU SEE THAT? THE 30-06 SPRINGFIELD BULLET
AND EVEN SO, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE YOUNG..
EVEN IF THE REMINGTON WAS THAT POWERFUL, YOU WERE STILL A TERRIBLE BRUTE.
HOW COULD ONE GUN DO SO MUCH DAMAGE?
WOAH...

WHEN KIK
DIED SO
BASIL
BECAUSE
OF HIM
THAT WAS
REALLY THE
WEST-AKAKA-
AUTO COULD
NOT

WHAT IS IT, GIN?
ARF! ARF!
IT'S ALL OVER ALREADY!
GIN, WHAT IS IT?
ARF! ARF!
WHINE
17

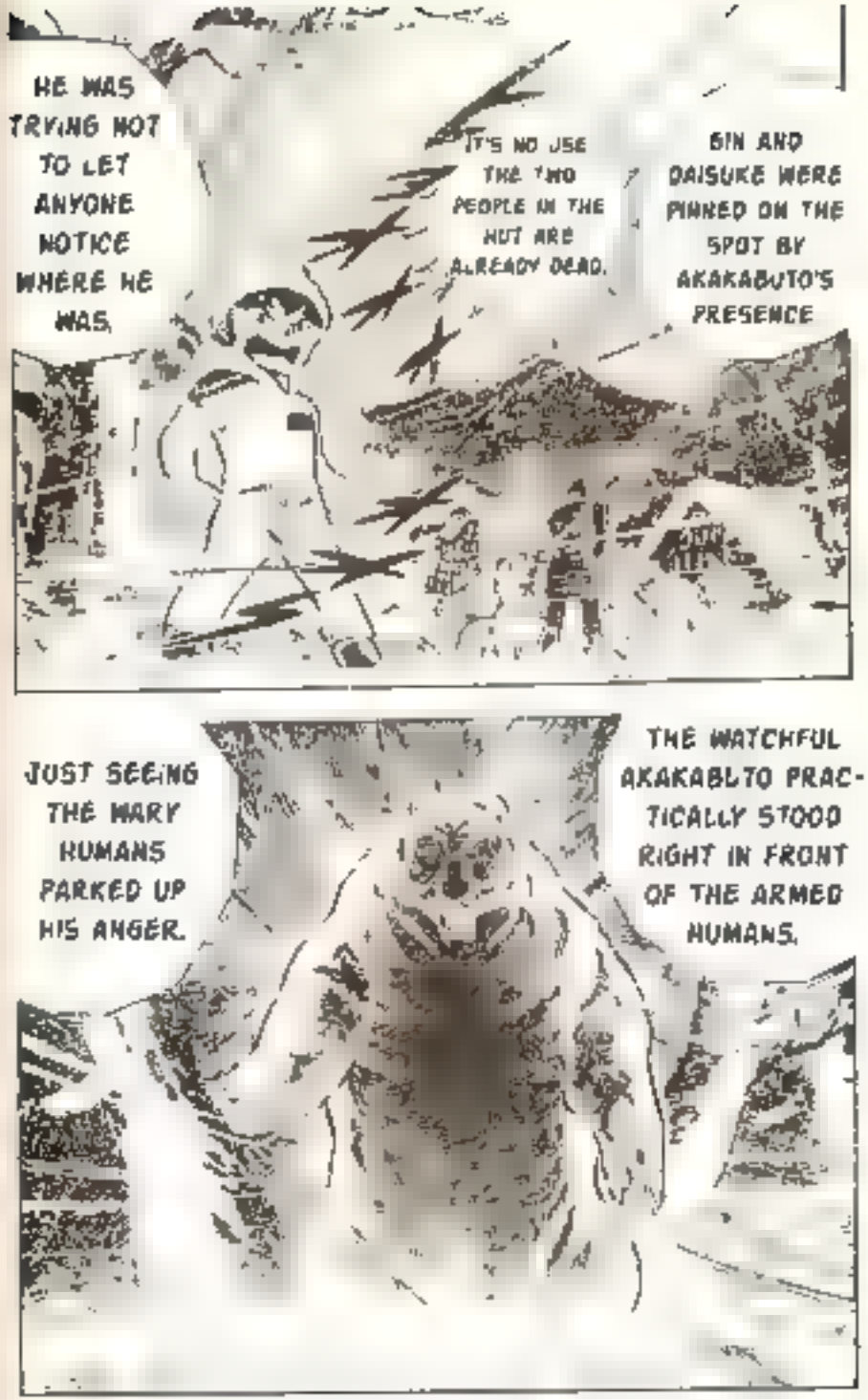
RIKI!!
GRANDPA

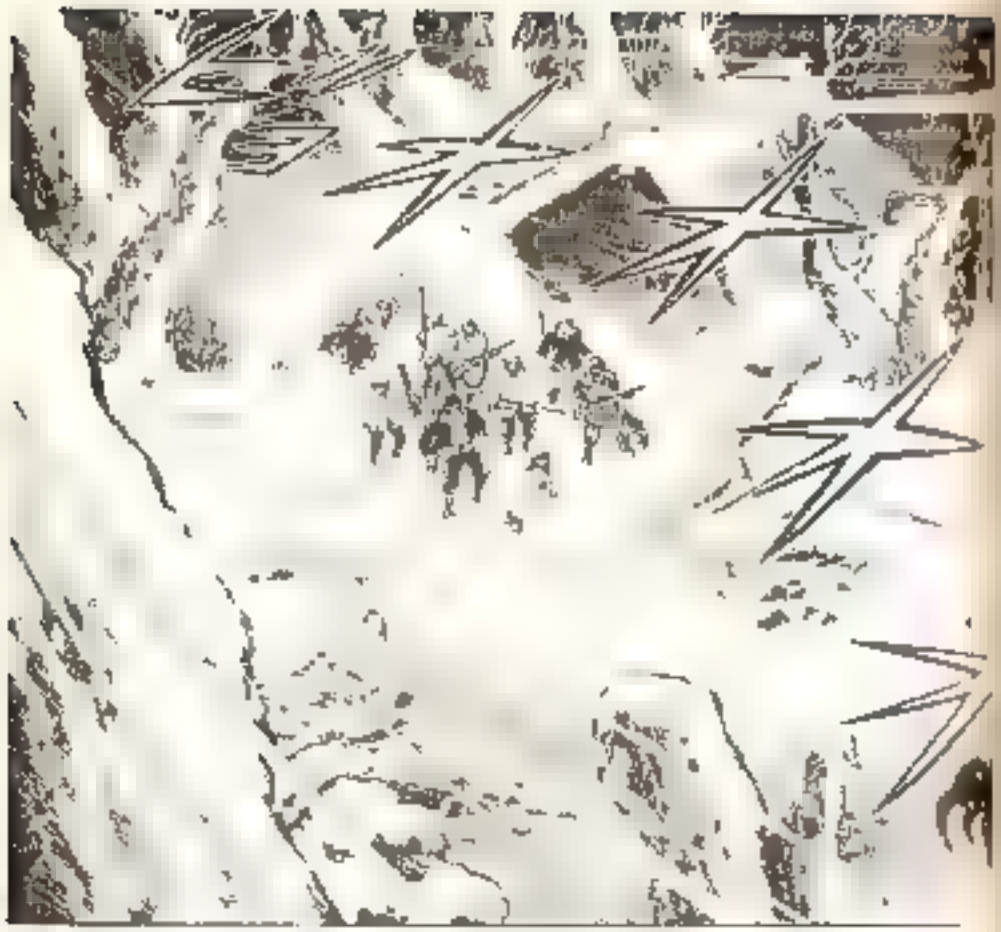
THIS ONE IS NOT AKAKA-BUTO.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GOHEI?
HIS EYE..!
HE IS RIGHT !
HE IS ONE OF AKAKA-BUTO'S OFF-SPRINGS!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! HE IS...
HE WAS NOT NEARLY AS BRUTAL, BUT...
HIS HAIR COLOUR


GRANDPA, HE IS...?!
WHAT ?!
BECAUSE I KNOW HE'S DEFINATELY AN ADULT SIZED BEAR
THAT'S RIGHT MY WORRY ABOUT HOW EASILY HE WAS KILLED.

IS AKAKA-BUTO TRYING TO FORM A CLAN?
WHAT, GOHEI?! YOU'RE SAYING IT WASN'T HIM?!
IT'S POSSI-BLE.
A FOR-TRESS ?
A HUGE FOR-TRESS!
HE COULD BE TRYING TO FORM A STRONGHOLD WITHIN THE MOUNTAINS.
HE'S JUST A STUPID BRUTE, GOHEI.
HEH. HOW STUPID

WHAT A SIGHT HOW TERRI-BLE!
DAISUKE'S BODY WAS FROZEN IN FEAR AND HE COULDN'T CALL FOR HELP
WITH AKAKBUTO'S FEARLESS STANCE...
AND JOHN'S NOSE INSTANTLY PICKED UP THE SCENT OF AKA KABUTO.
BUT THEN, THE WIND CHANGED.
GRANDPA TAKEDA, OVER THERE!
AH! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
JOHN DOESN'T USUALLY QUIVER LIKE THAT
WHAT AN INTENSE FEELING.


HE WAS TRYING NOT TO LET ANYONE NOTICE WHERE HE WAS.
IT'S NO USE THE TWO PEOPLE IN THE HUT ARE ALREADY DEAD.
BIN AND DAISUKE WERE PINNED ON THE SPOT BY AKAKABUTO'S PRESENCE
JUST SEEING THE WARY HUMANS PARKED UP HIS ANGER.
THE WATCHFUL AKAKABUTO PRAC-TICALLY STOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ARMED HUMANS.

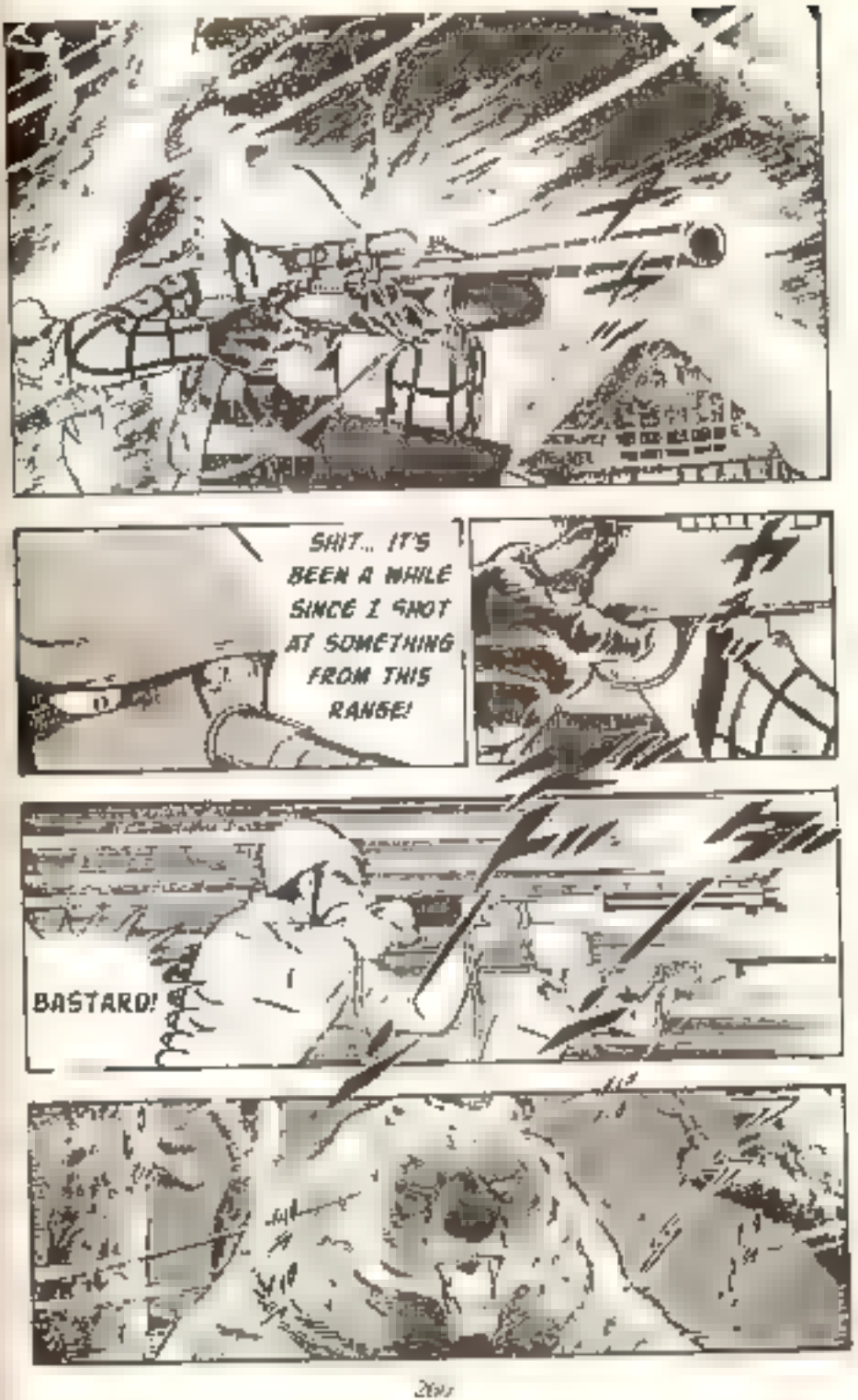


GRRR...

IT WASN'T A LEGEND. IT WAS COMING TO LIFE.
HIS TORA-GE BLOOD WAS BOILING
YOU'LL GET KILLED!
DON'T GO! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG.
DON'T! IT'S NO USE, GIN!

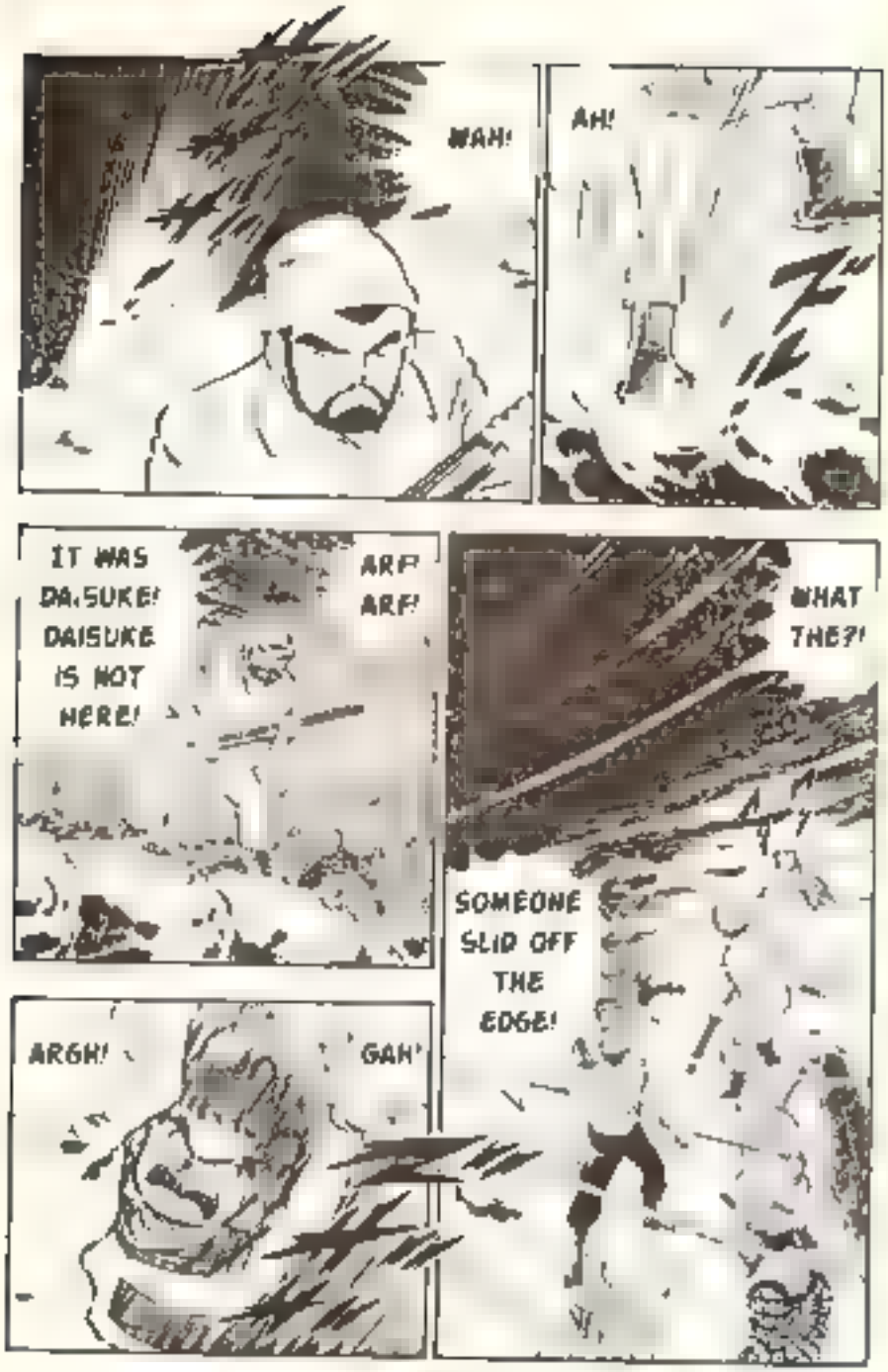
HIS SHARP SIGHT PINNED THEM THERE.
WITH A GLINT IN HIS ONLY EYE, HE STARED AT HIS ENEMIES ONE BY ONE AND REMEMBERED THEM ALL.
HIDE-TOSHI ..
DAI-SUKE..
GOHEI ..
BUT GIN BROKE THE STARE.
AND LASTLY HE CAME TO GIN..
JOHN ..

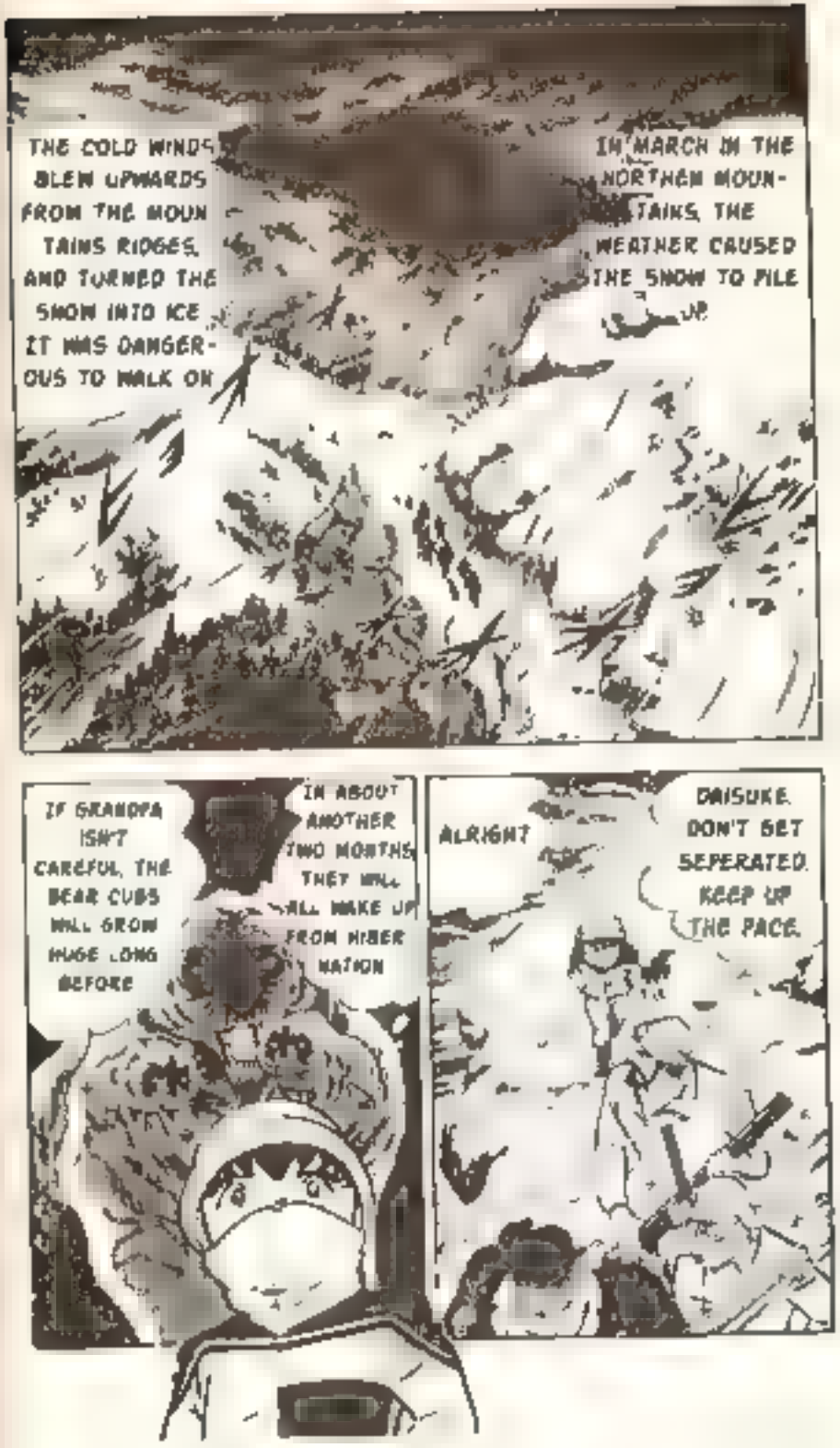
HE KNOWS THE RANGE OF OUR GUNS.
IT'S USE-LESS.
17
BUT AKA KABUTO HAD ALREADY VANISHED.
HIDETOSHI AIMED IS RIFFLE. READY TO DELIEVER DESTRUCTION.


SHIT... IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SHOT AT SOMETHING FROM THIS RANGE!
BASTARD!

WHINE
WHINE
DON'T FORGET TO RELOAD YOUR GUNS, EVERY-ONE
WE'RE STILL IN THE MOUN-TAINS
I'VE TAKEN DOWN THERE, ELEPHANTS, LIONS... A BEAR IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THOSE
HOW DARE HE LECTURE ME I'M THE BEST GUNMAN THERE IS.
UNTIL NOW I'D ONLY KILLED THOSE KIND OF ANIMALS... BUT THAT BEAR IS COMPLETELY DIF-FERENT
I'D TRAINED HIM HARD TO FEAR-LESSLY KILL. BUT NONETHELESS...
BUT EVEN AN EXPERIENCED HUNTING DOG LIKE JOHN WAS QUIVER-ING...
NOTHING COM-PARED TO THE PUMA I SHOT IN NORTH AMERICA..

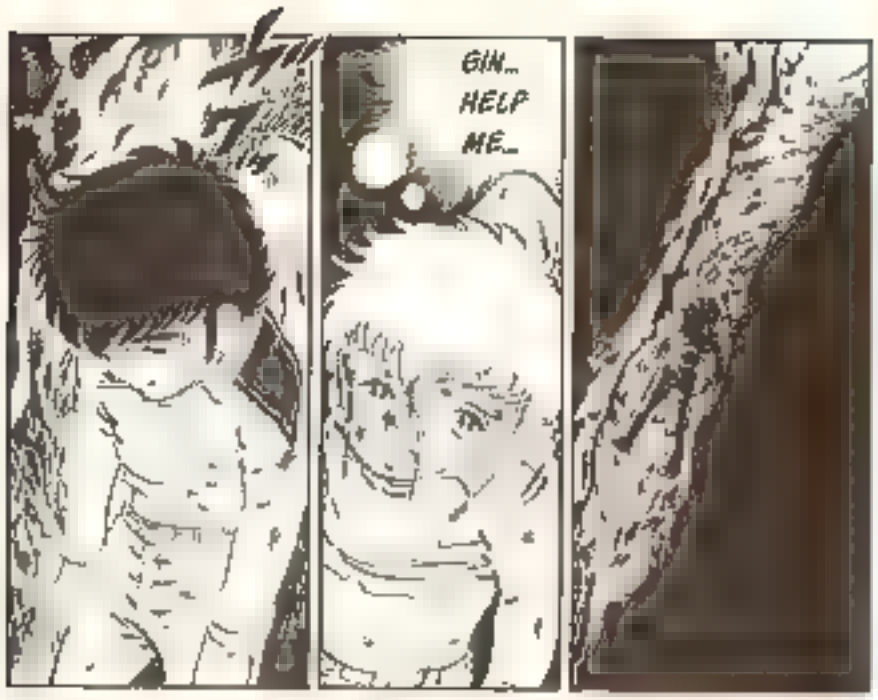
DON'T GO!
WAIT, YOU FOOL!
AND HE SHOULD BE SCARED! COME ON, JOHN. WE'LL KILL HIM!
HE KNOWS THE POWER OF MY GUN.
YOU REALLY DO STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN.
YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF A HUNTER BY RUSHING AROUND AIM-LESSLY!
PHEW.
HE IS TRYING TO LURE YOU INTO THE DARKNESS
THIS IS AKAKABUTO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HE WAS WAITING AROUND SO HE COULD SEE THE RANGE OF OUR WEAPONS


WAH!
AH!
IT WAS DAISUKE! DAISUKE IS NOT HERE!
ARF ARF!
WHAT THE?!
SOMEONE SLID OFF THE EDGE!
ARGH!
GAH!


THE COLD WINDS BLEW UPWARDS FROM THE MOUNTAINS RIDGES, AND TURNED THE SNOW INTO ICE IT WAS DANGEROUS TO WALK ON
IN MARCH IN THE NORTHEN MOUNTAINS, THE WEATHER CAUSED THE SNOW TO PILE UP
IF GRANDPA ISN'T CAREFUL, THE BEAR CUBS WILL GROW HUGE LONG BEFORE
IN ABOUT ANOTHER TWO MONTHS THEY WILL ALL WAKE UP FROM HIBER NATION
ALRIGHT
DAISUKE DON'T GET SEPERATED. KEEP UP THE PACE.

KYAA!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
DAISUKE ANSWER ME!

WHERE IS HE?!
WHAT THE... DAI-SUKE!
NAH!
ARGH!
STOP!

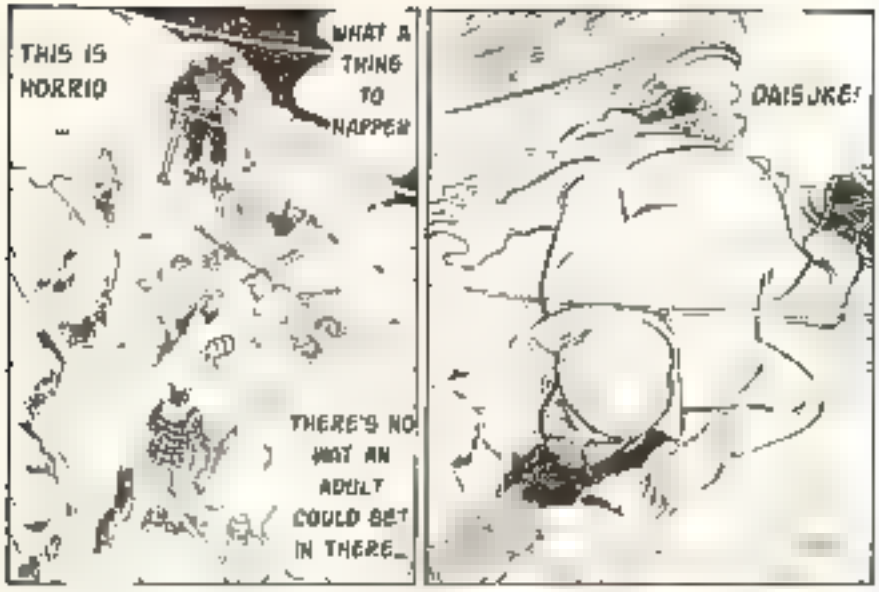

GIN...
HELP
ME...

ARF!
WHINE

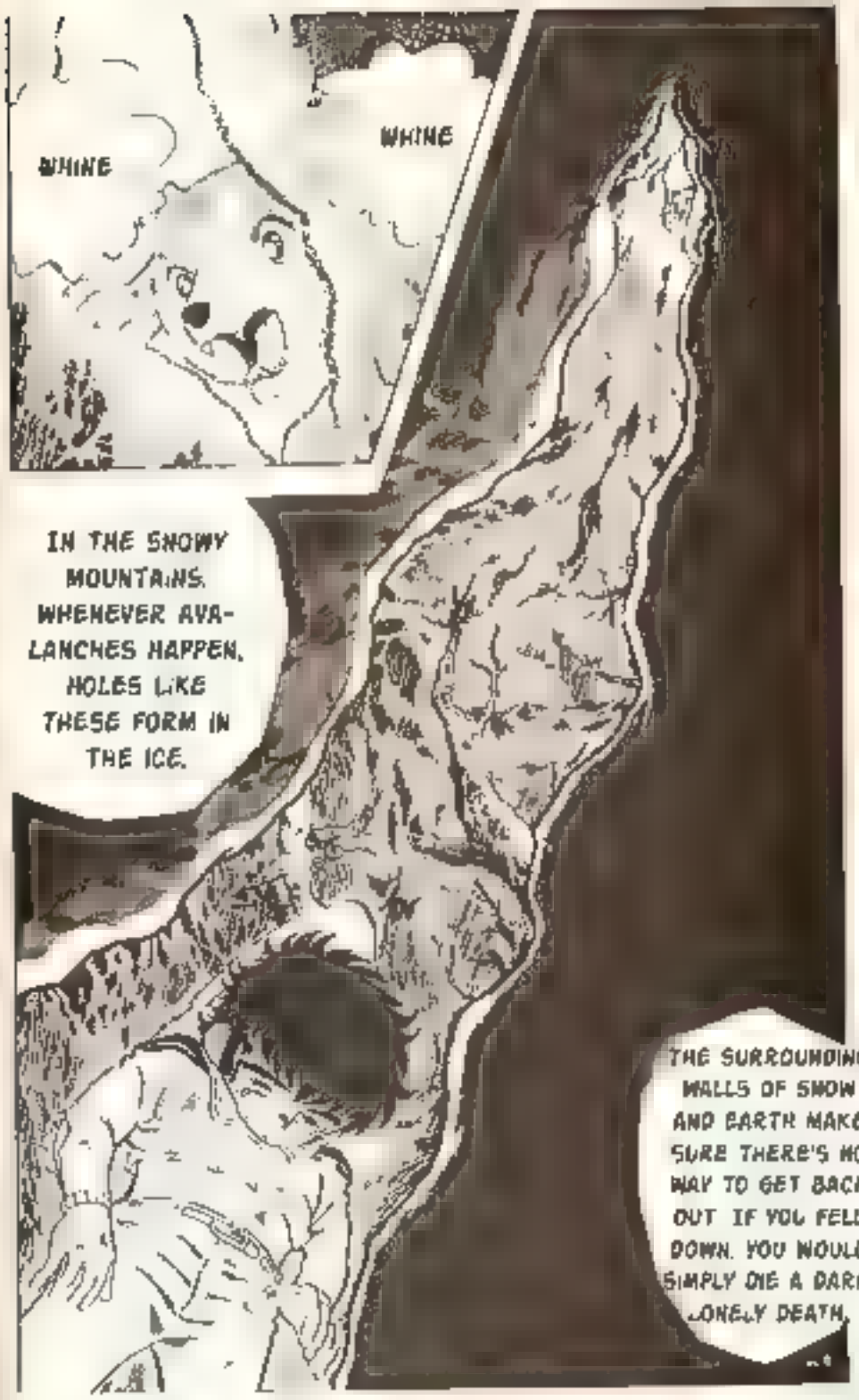
WHINE
SNIFF
SNIFF

DOES HE
THINK HE
IS THERE?
WHAT
?!
ARF!
ARF!

DAISUKE!
WHERE
ARE YOU?!
DAISUKE!


THIS IS HORRID
WHAT A THING TO HAPPEN
THERE'S NO WAY AN ADULT COULD GET IN THERE.
DAISUKE!

HE CAN'T BE SAVED NOW!
IT'S HOPELESS!
DAISUKE!
DAISUKE!


WHINE
WHINE
IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS, WHENEVER AVALANCHES HAPPEN, HOLES LIKE THESE FORM IN THE ICE.
THE SURROUNDING WALLS OF SNOW AND EARTH MAKE SURE THERE'S NO WAY TO GET BACK OUT. IF YOU FELL DOWN, YOU WOULD SIMPLY DIE A DARK, LONELY DEATH.

ALREADY, HE WANTS TO RISK HIS OWN LIFE?!
ARF!
ARF!
GIN ? WHAT IS HE THINKING?!
EVERYONE TAKE OFF YOUR SNOW SHOES AND REMOVE THE CORDS AND MAKE A ROPE
ALRIGHT GIN. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR US NOW?!
GRANDPA TAKEDA WHAT DO WE DO?!
WHINE
ARF! ARF!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: KEI
EDITING BY: WWW.GINGASITE.NET
GINGA.NAGAREBOSHI GIN
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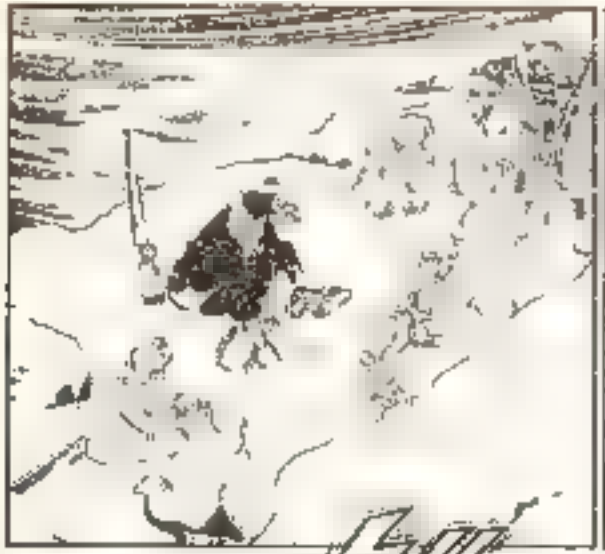

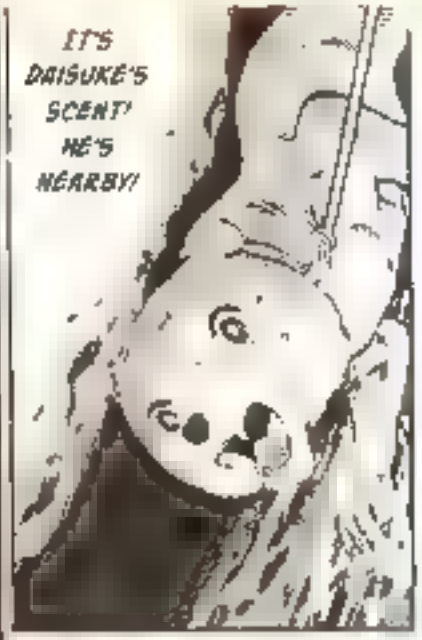

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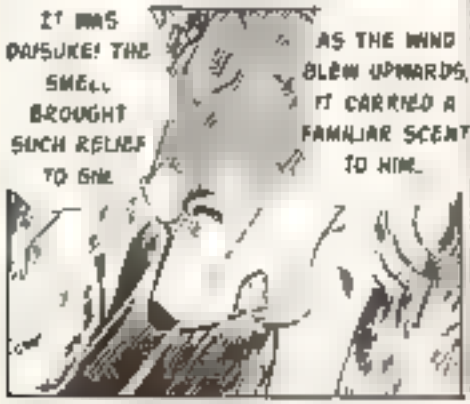
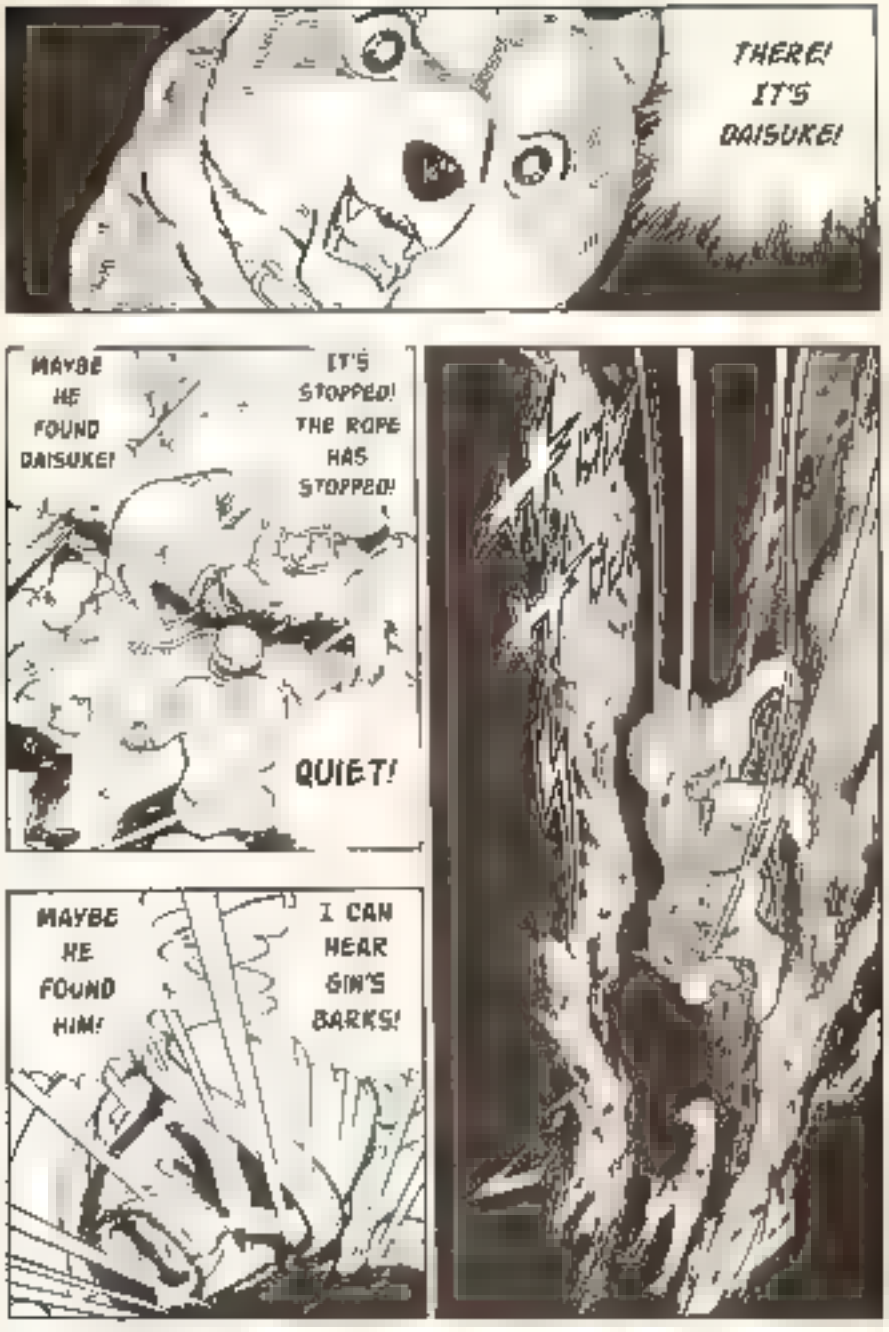
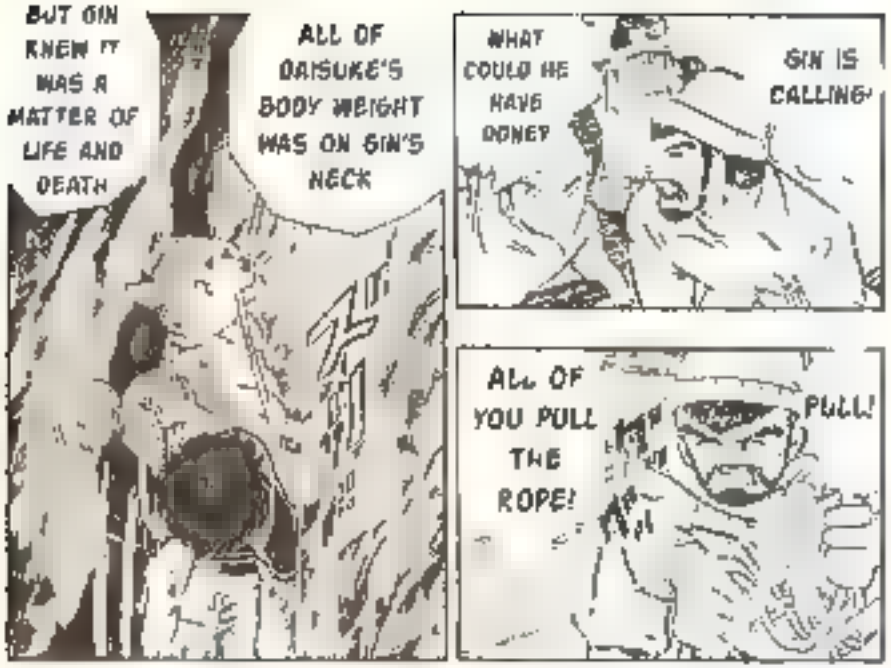
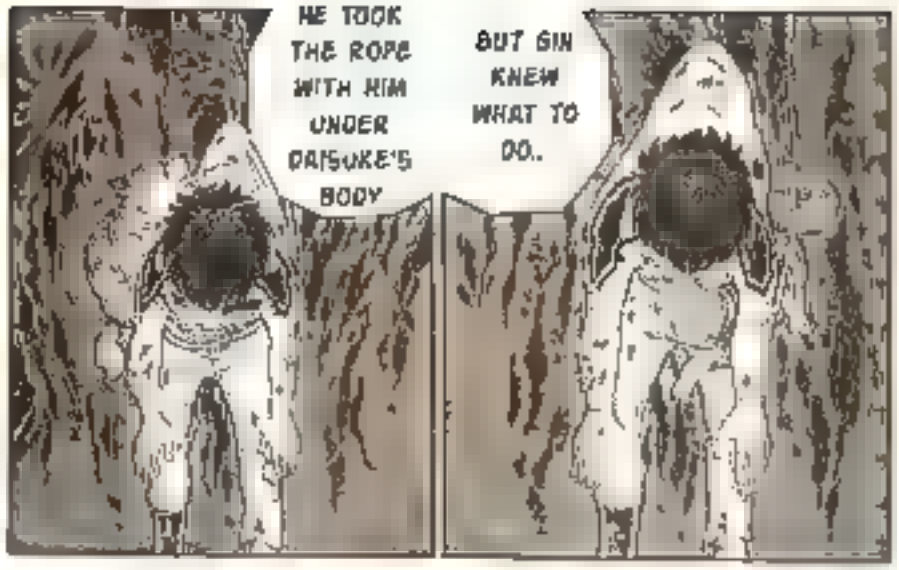


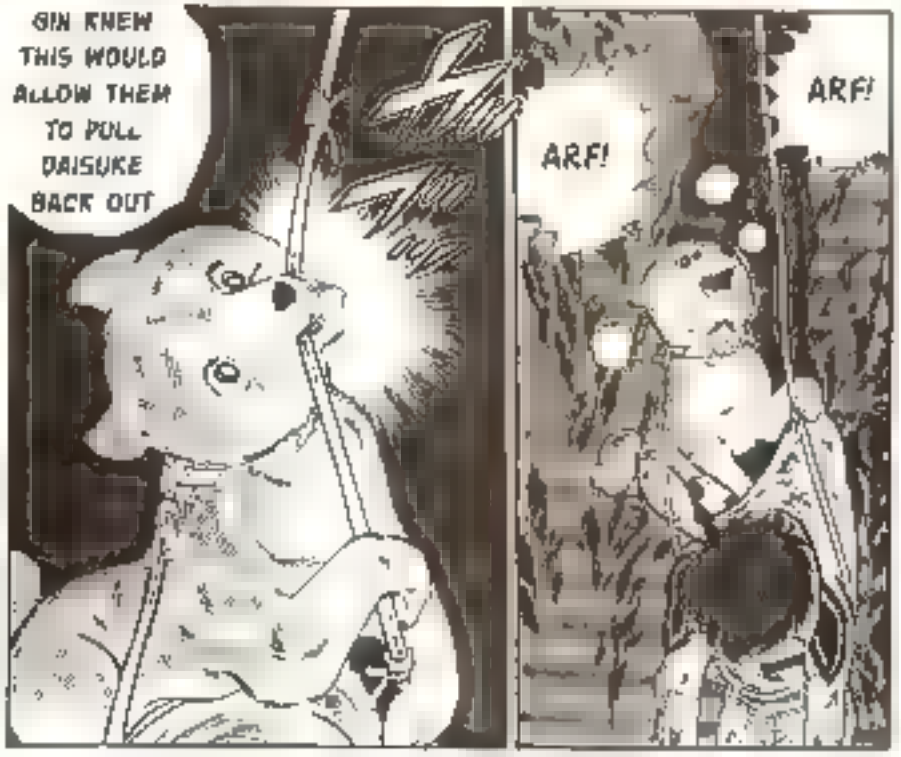
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
KEI

CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
GRAB GIN'S ROPE!
SHOUT TO ME!
DAISUKE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
WHAT IF HE HAS ALREADY BEEN KILLED?
OH, GOD... ANSWER ME.
HE IS YOUR SON! DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS!
WHINE
ARF! ARF!


THERE! IT'S DAISUKE!
MAYBE HE FOUND DAISUKE!
IT'S STOPPED! THE ROPE HAS STOPPED!
QUIET!
MAYBE HE FOUND HIM!
I CAN HEAR GIN'S BARKS!


BUT GIN KNEW IT WAS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH
ALL OF DAISUKE'S BODY WEIGHT WAS ON GIN'S NECK
WHAT COULD HE HAVE DONE?
GIN IS CALLING
ALL OF YOU PULL THE ROPE!
PULL!

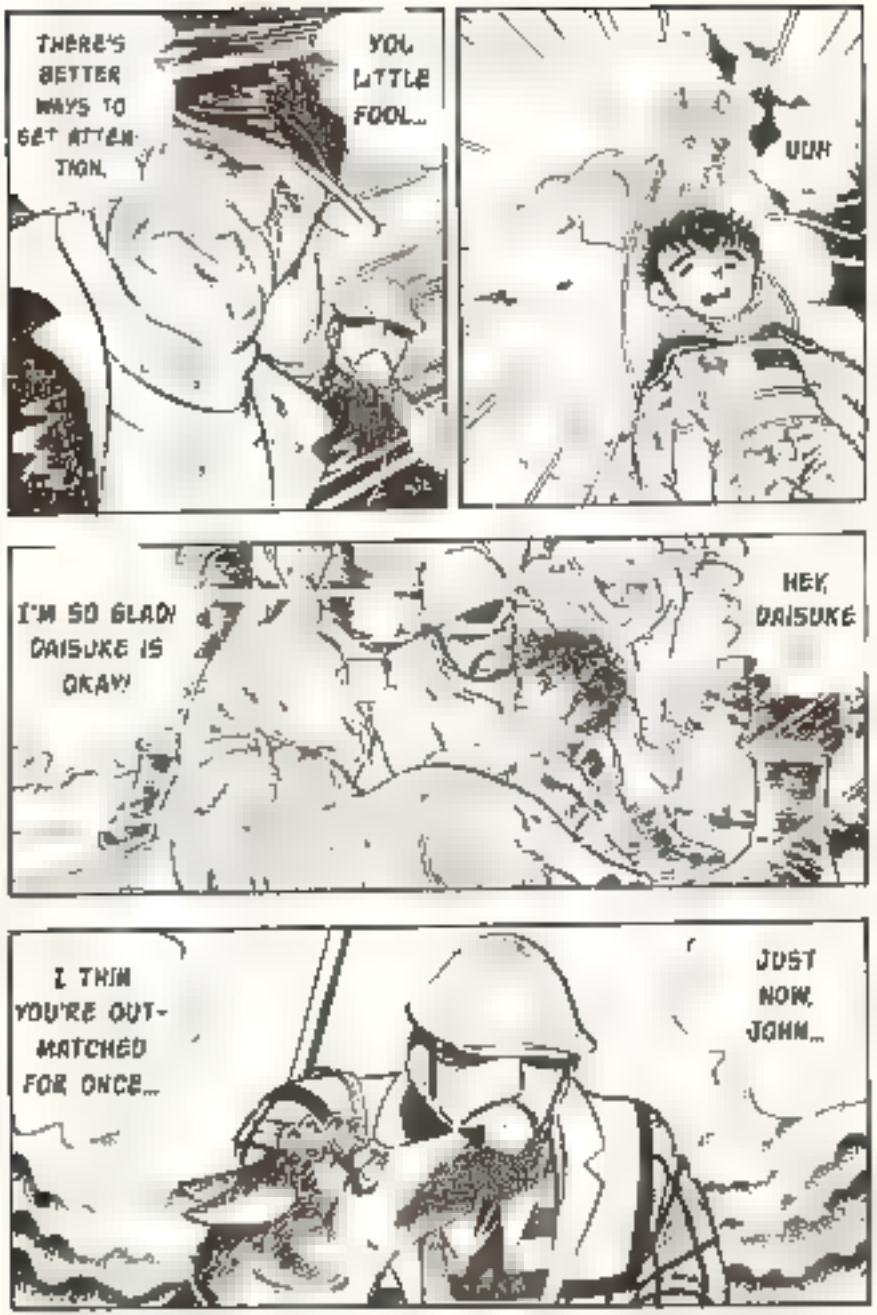

HE TOOK THE ROPE WITH HIM UNDER DAISUKE'S BODY
BUT GIN KNEW WHAT TO DO..


GIN KNEW THIS WOULD ALLOW THEM TO PULL DAISUKE BACK OUT
ARF!
ARF!

I CAN SEE HIM! JUST A BIT FURTHER...
AAH!
DAI-SUKE!
DAI-SUKE! HEY!
THAT'S IT! YOU DID IT GIN!
PULL IT UP!
HE HELD THAT ROPE HIMSELF
HOW AMA-ZING.

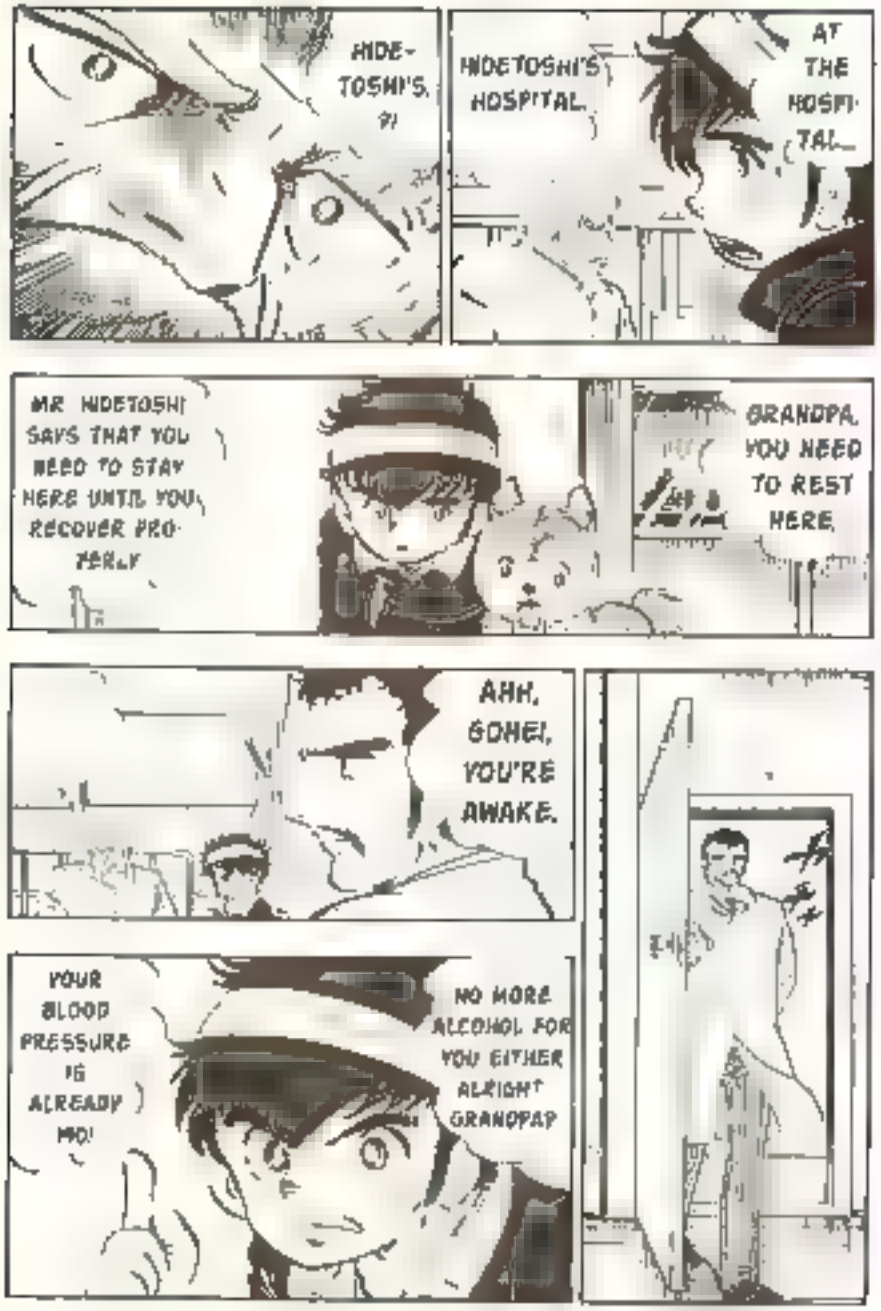
UAH...
HURGH
MR. KOUSAKU... TAKE MY PLACE FOR A MOMENT!
DAISUKE. DAISUKE.
EVEN SO, GIN REFUSED TO LET GO OF THE ROPE THAT HE HELD IN HIS MOUTH
HE WAS ALSO UNABLE TO BREATH
GIN'S COLLOR WAS CUTTING INTO HIS NECK

WHINE
WHINE
WHAT HAP-PENED?! GIN... I...
WHAT DID YOU DO FOR ME...
YOU. YOU'RE BLEED-ING.
I'LL RISK MY OWN LIFE TO HELP YOU TOO...
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS, GIN.
THAT DOG REALLY MUST BE...
AN ADULT ALREADY

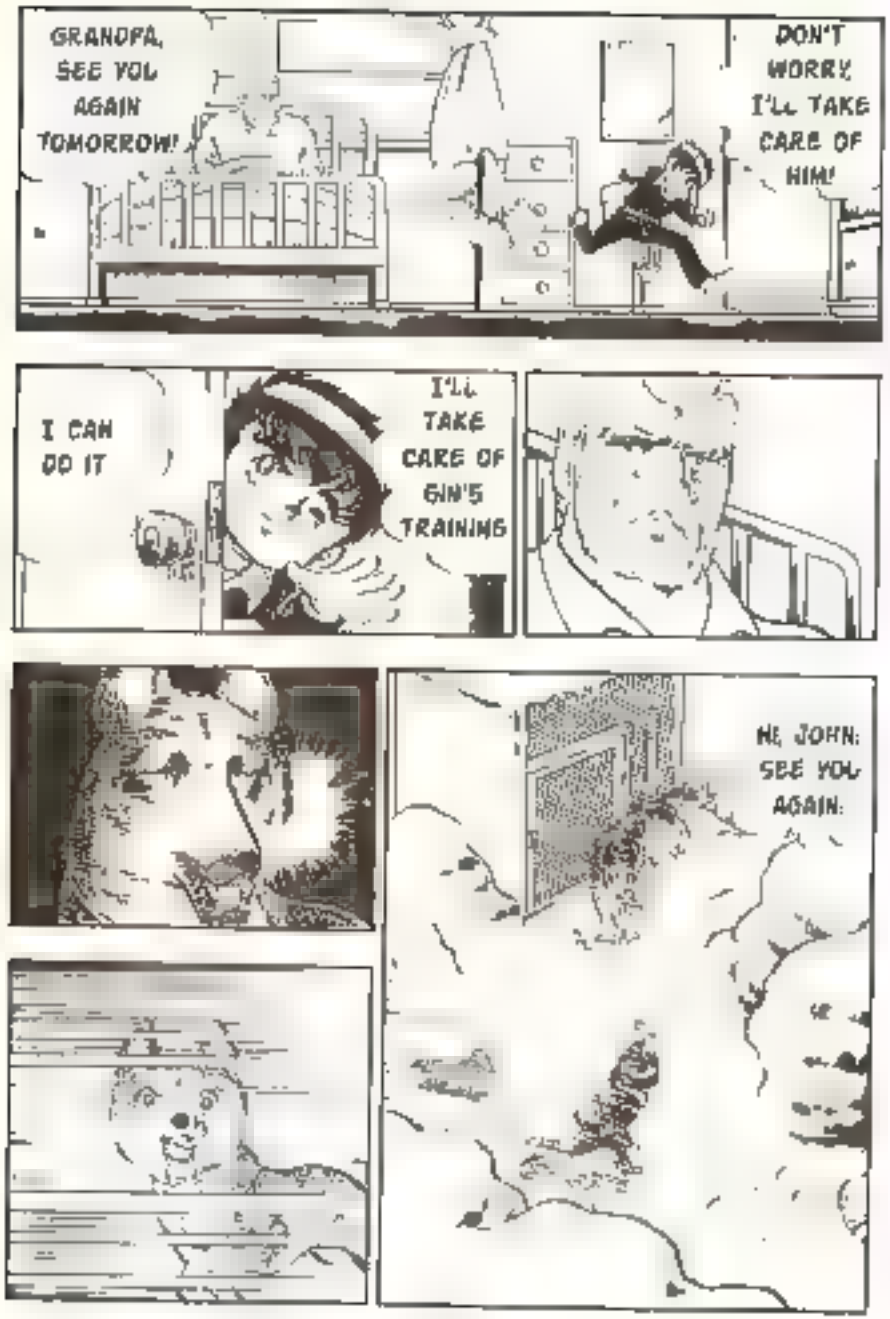

THERE'S BETTER WAYS TO GET ATTEN-TION.
YOU LITTLE FOOL...
UUH
I'M SO GLAD! DAISUKE IS OKAY!
HEY, DAISUKE
I THIN YOU'RE OUT-MATCHED FOR ONCE...
JUST NOW, JOHN...

EVERYONE WE CAN'T WALK A BIT SLOWER FOR GOHEI?
GRANDPA TAKEDA, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU TIRED?
GOHEI!
GOHEI! WHAT'S WRONG?!

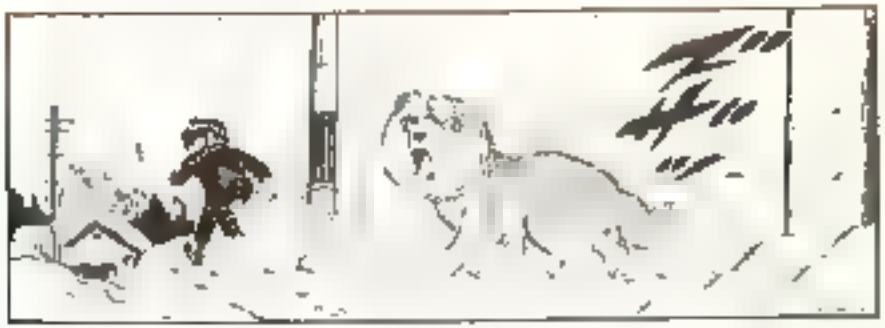
HURRY! WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THESE WOUNDS
LET'S GO HOME, DAISUKE.
I'LL HELP GIN DEFEAT AKAKA-BUTO.
ALRIGHT
ONLY I CAN HELP GIN.

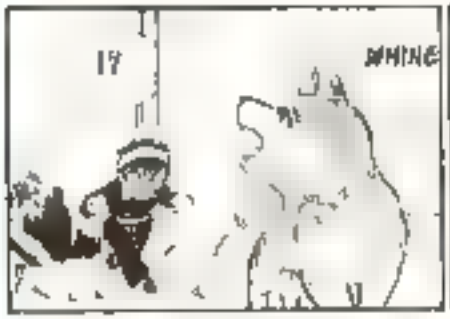

HIDE-
TOSHI'S.
?!
HIDETOSHI'S
HOSPITAL.
AT
THE
HOSPI-
TAL.
MR HIDETOSHI
SAYS THAT YOU
NEED TO STAY
HERE UNTIL YOU
RECOVER PRO-
PERLY
GRANDPA,
YOU NEED
TO REST
HERE.
AHH,
GOHEI,
YOU'RE
AWAKE.
YOUR
BLOOD
PRESSURE
IS ALREADY
HIGH!
NO MORE
ALCOHOL FOR
YOU EITHER
ALRIGHT
GRANDPA?

I'M
GLAD!
ARE
YOU
FEELING
BETTER
GRAND-
PA?
WHERE
AM I.?
DON'T
TRY TO
GET UP!


GRANDPA, SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
I CAN DO IT
I'LL TAKE CARE OF GIN'S TRAINING
HI, JOHN. SEE YOU AGAIN.

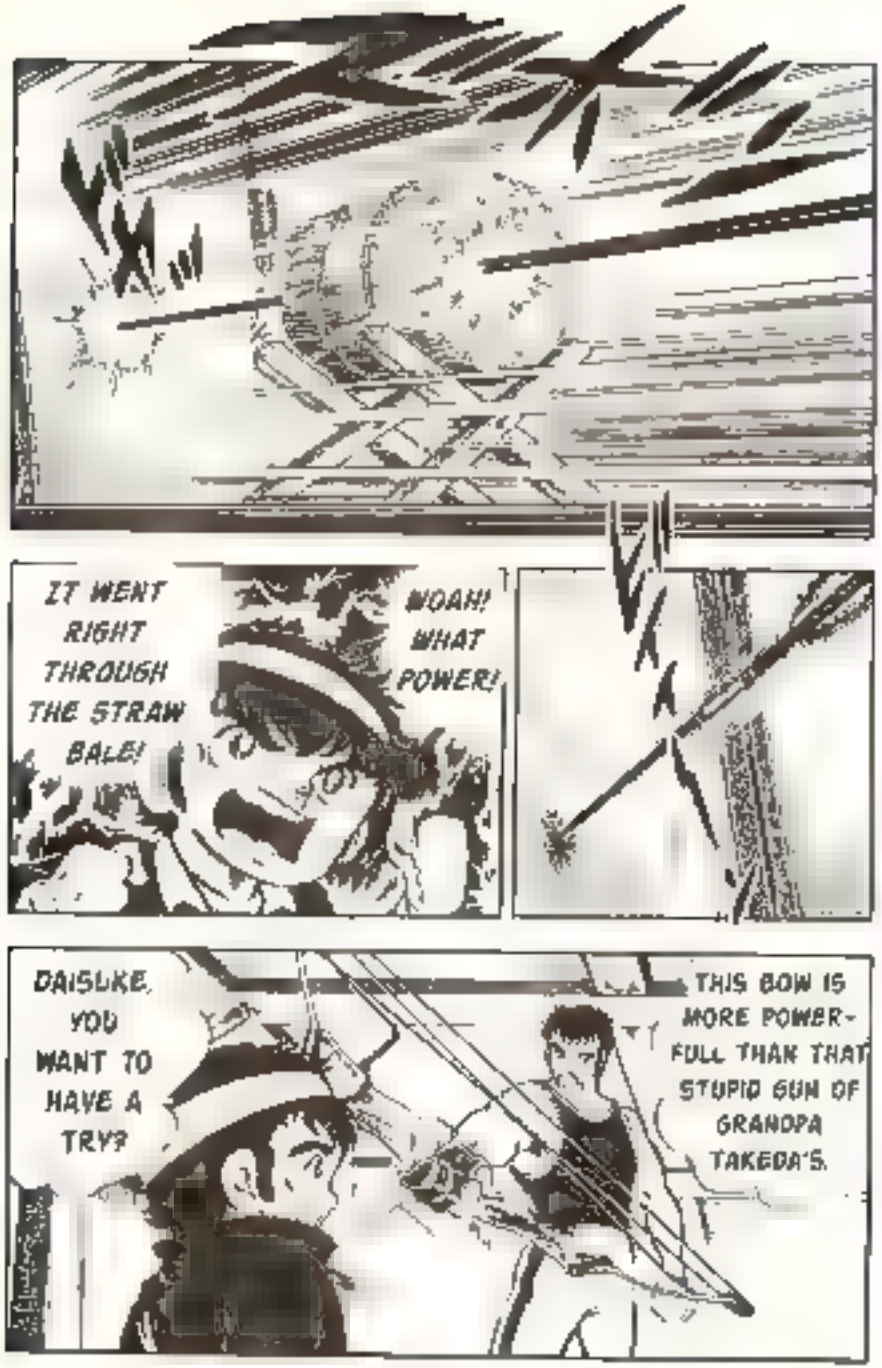
THERE'S NOTHING MUCH KEEPING ME IN TOKYO RIGHT NOW.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BEST I STAY HERE FOR A WHILE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO A TOKYO HOSPITAL?
I CAN'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I'VE SETTLED MY BUSINESS WITH AKAKABUTO ANYWAY.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
YOU SHOULD STAY HERE TO REST FOR A FEW DAYS.

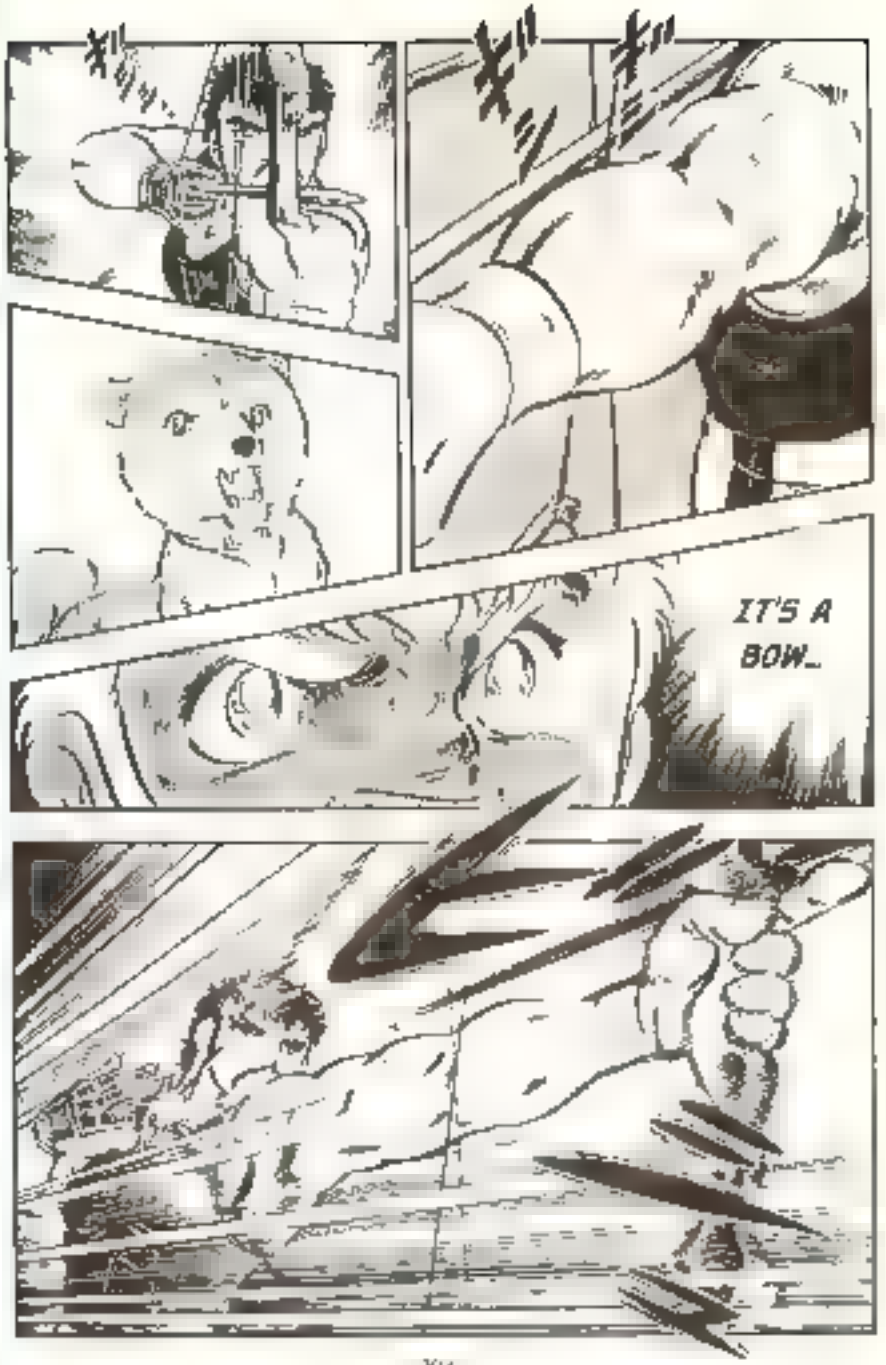



IT
WHINE

WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON!
HEY GIN!

AH.. IT'S MR HOKUTOSHI WHAT'S HE DOING?

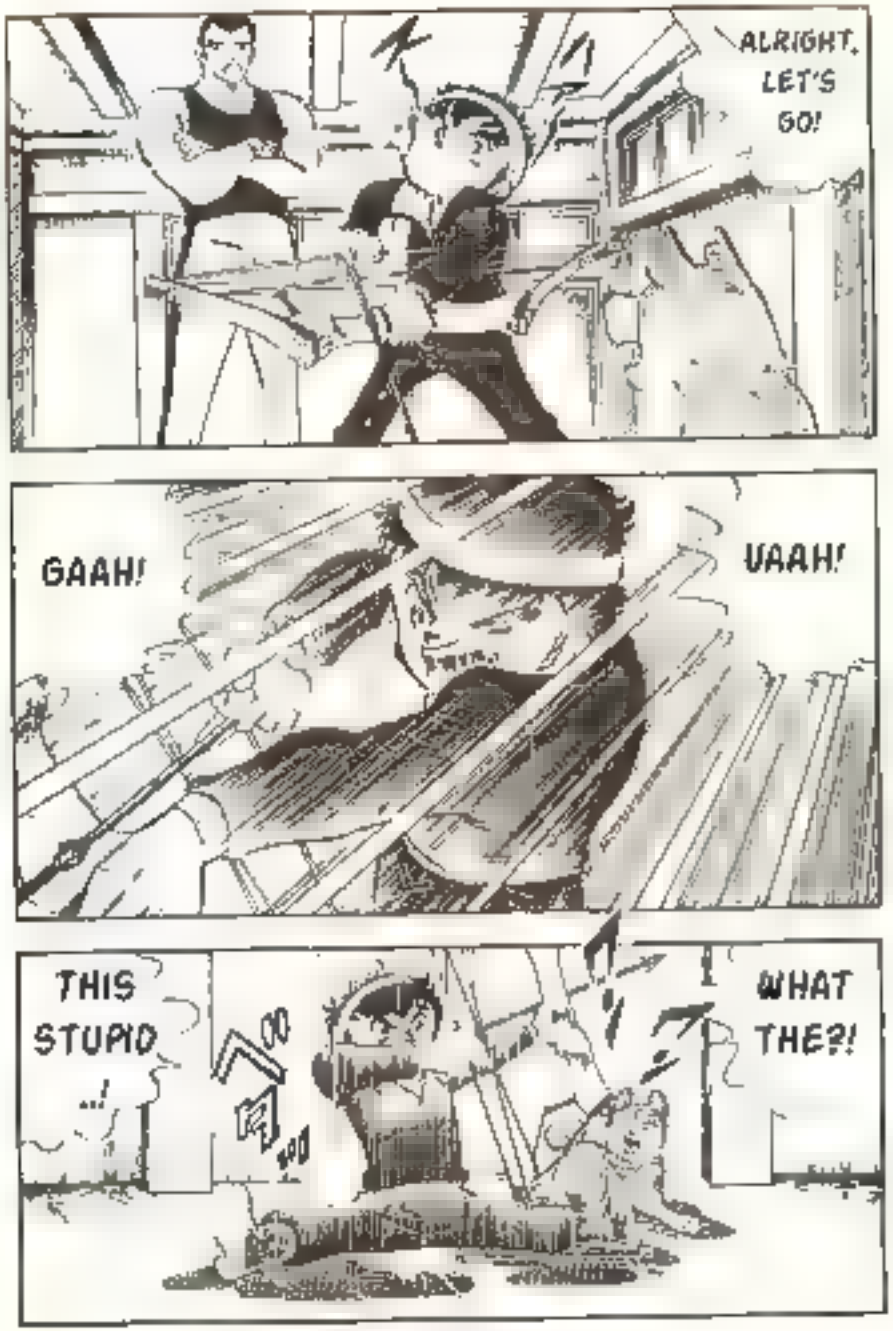

IT WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE STRAW BALE!
WOAH! WHAT POWER!
DAISUKE, YOU WANT TO HAVE A TRY?
THIS BOW IS MORE POWERFULL THAN THAT STUPID GUN OF GRANDPA TAKEDA'S.

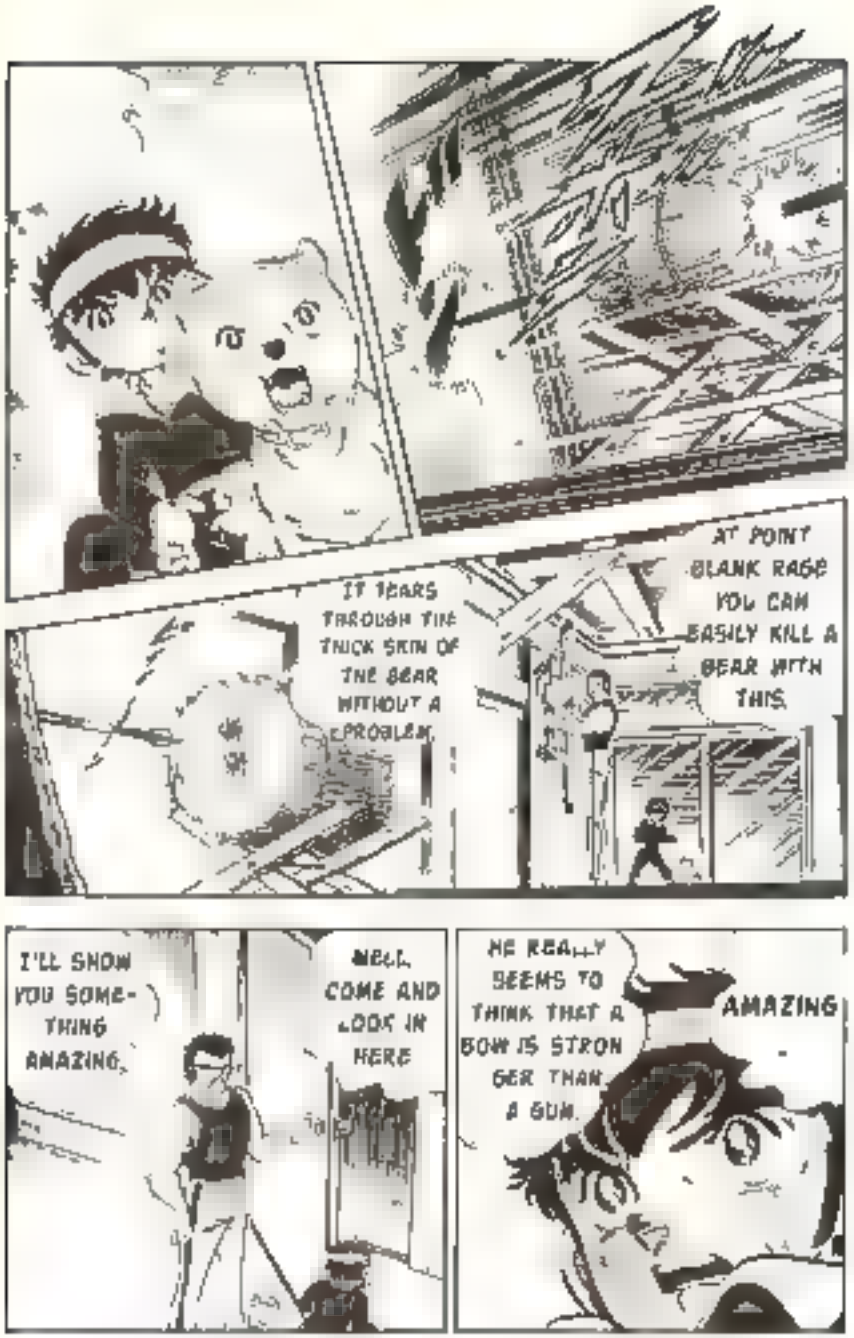

IT'S A BOW...

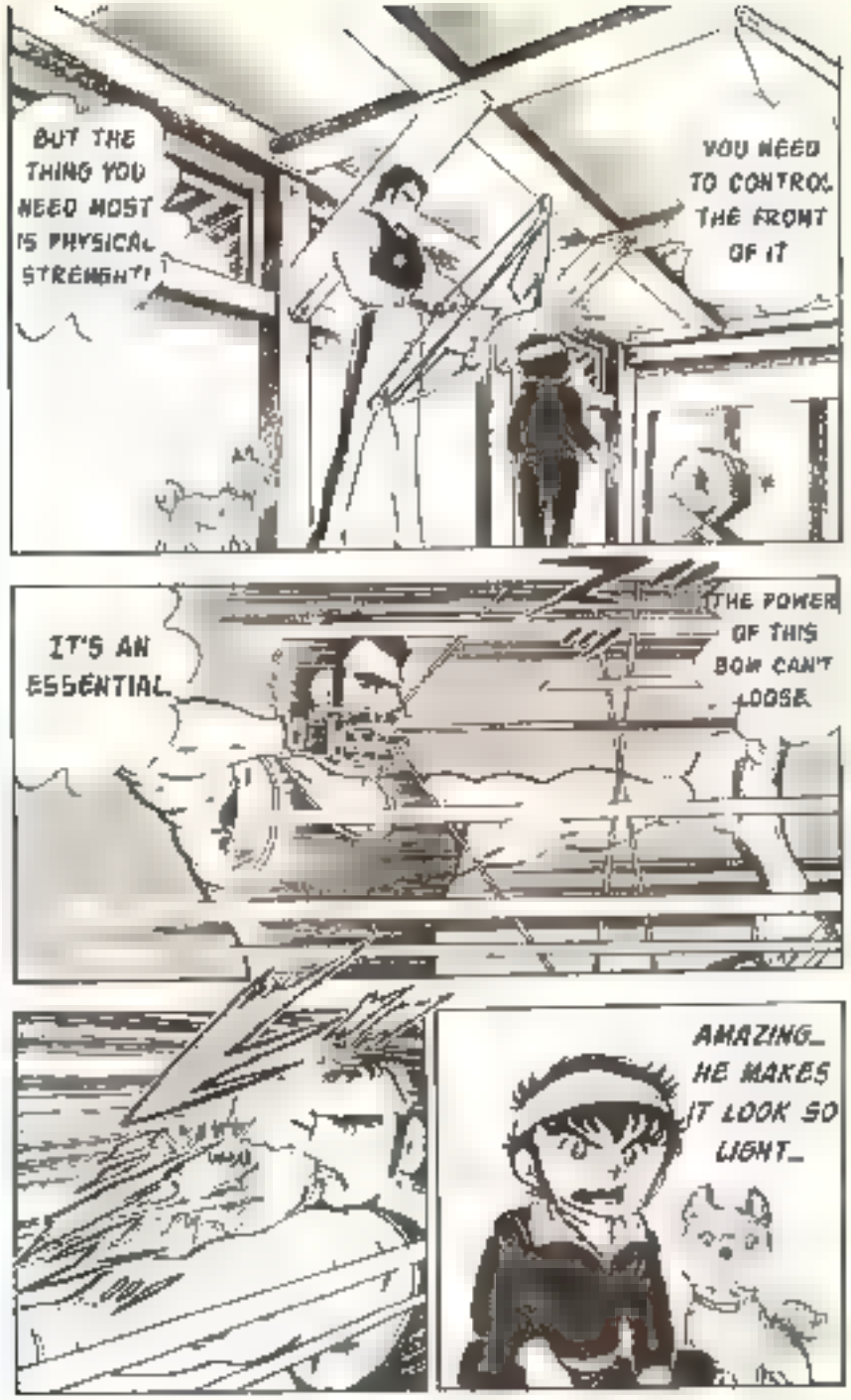
OH.. IT'S SO DIFFI-CULT !
I CAN'T -
W... WHAT THE HELL...
I SEE NOW.
IT'S ALRIGHT, GIN!

THIS BOW?!
MORE POWERFUL THAN GRANDPA'S GUN?!
!?
THAT'S IT REST YOUR FINGERS ON THE HANDLE
JUST HOLD THE ARROW HERE..

RARGH!
GUAH!
I ONLY PULLED IT A FEW CENTIMETRES.
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE
ONE HIT FROM THIS DOES MORE DAMAGE THAN TAKEDA'S GUN.
A BOW THAT HAS REAL KILLING POWER
THAT'S A REAL HUNTING BOW
HAH. WHAT DO YOU THINK DAISUKE?


ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!
GAAH!
UAAH!
THIS STUPID ...!
WHAT THE?!


AT POINT BLANK RAGE YOU CAN EASILY KILL A BEAR WITH THIS.
IT TEARS THROUGH THE THICK SKIN OF THE BEAR WITHOUT A PROBLEM.
I'LL SHOW YOU SOME-THING AMAZING.
WELL COME AND LOOK IN HERE
HE REALLY SEEMS TO THINK THAT A BOW IS STRON GER THAN A GUN.
AMAZING


BUT THE THING YOU NEED MOST IS PHYSICAL STRENGHT!
YOU NEED TO CONTROL THE FRONT OF IT
IT'S AN ESSENTIAL
THE POWER OF THIS BOW CAN'T LOOSE.
AMAZING... HE MAKES IT LOOK SO LIGHT...

EVERYONE GETS SURPRISED WHEN THEY STEP IN HERE
HAHA, HE'S STUFFED.
HEH. IT SHOCKED ME!

BUT I'VE ACTUALLY KILLED 12 OF THEM, MYSELF
I SHOT THIS TIGER IN CHINA.

WAH!

JOHN WAS WITH ME, TOO.
WELL, IN A WAY.
THE ARROW WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH HIM AND WHEN INTO THE ROCK BEHIND.
LOOK AT THIS ONE
THE WALRUS WAS ALSO KILLED INSTANTLY BY MY BOW.

OH?
WOAH... DID YOU KILL ALL OF THOSE?

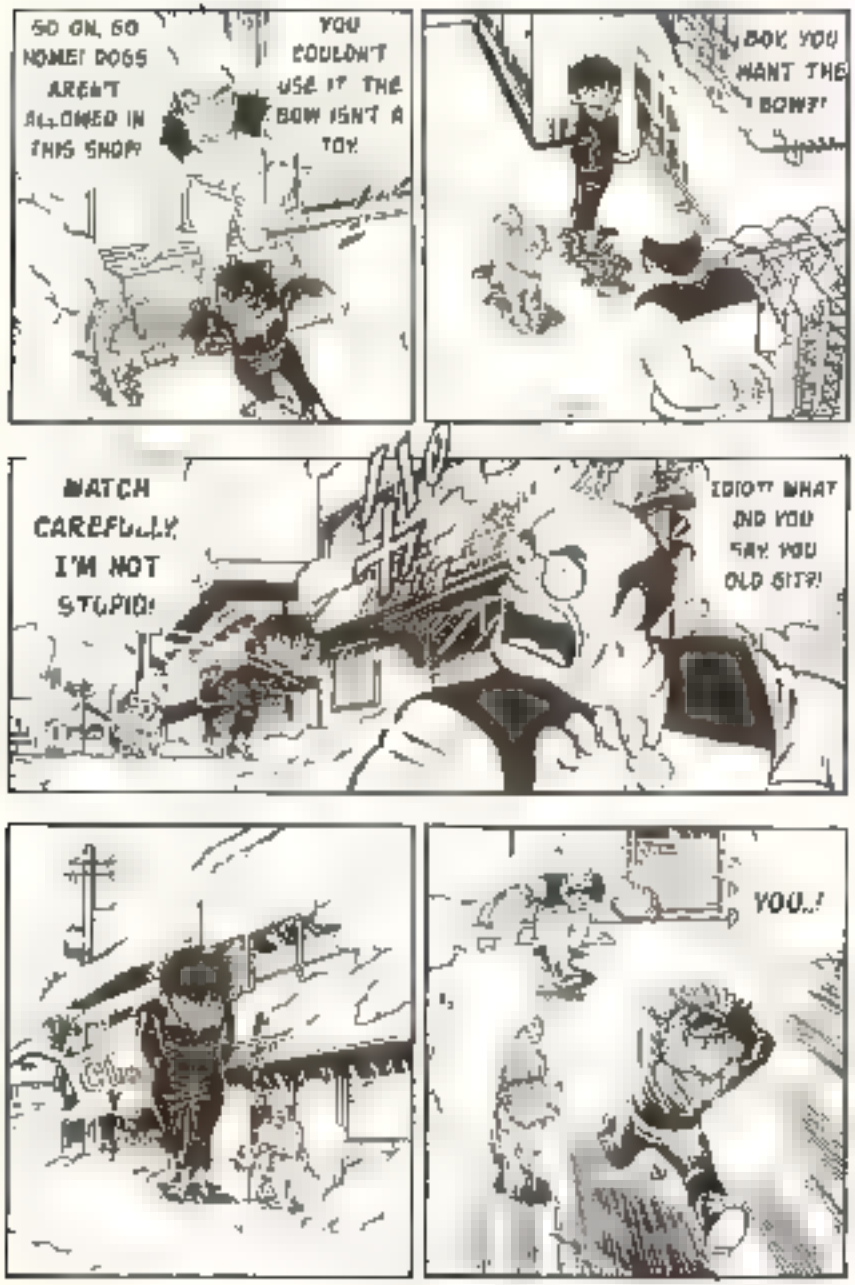
GRANDPA WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO HUNT ANYMORE.
HE'S RIGHT THERE'S NO WAY GRANDPA COULD DO IT
WHAT SHOULD I DO...

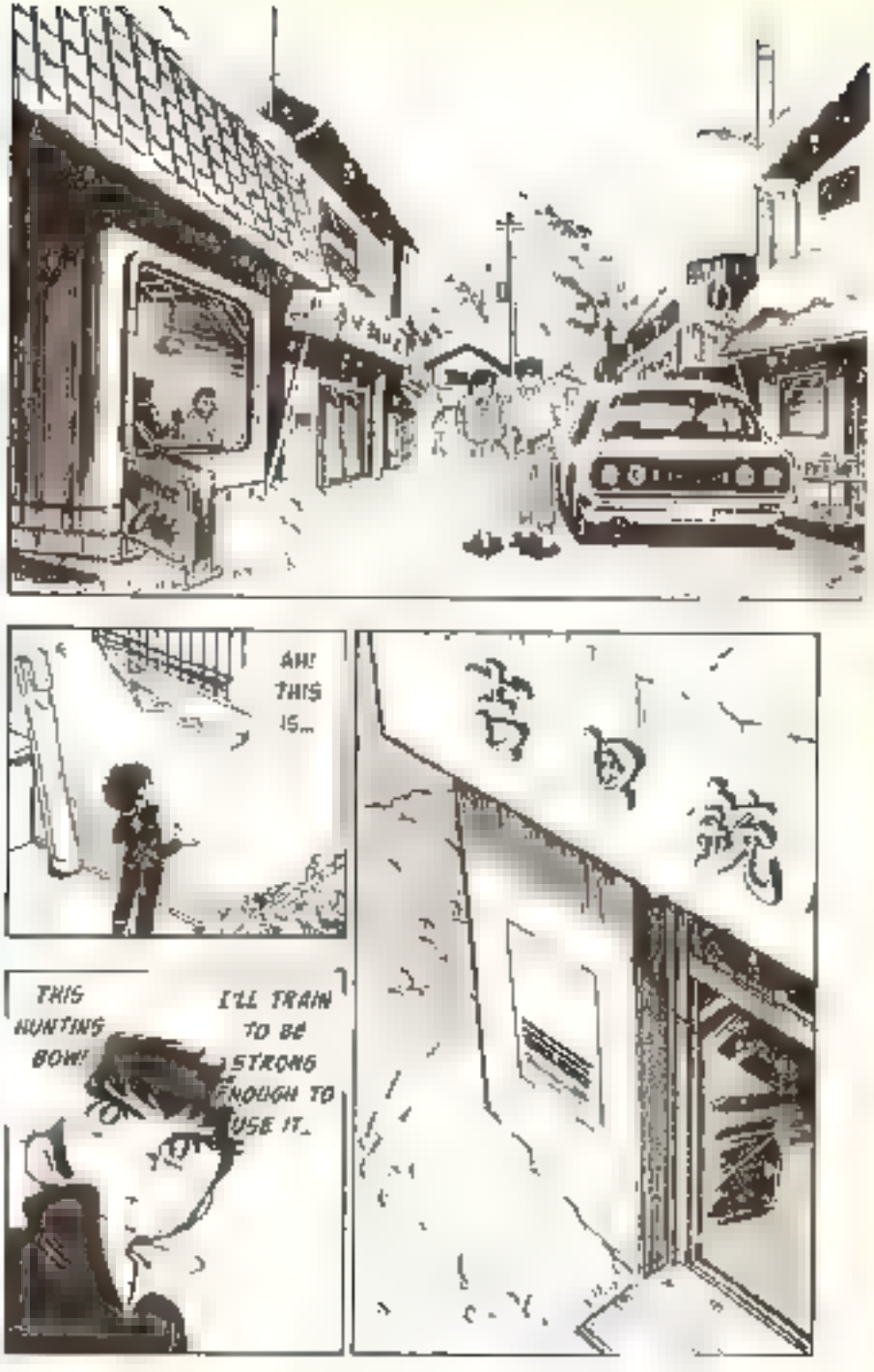
BUT YOU CAN PRACTISE TOO, AS LONG AS YOU COME HERE TO DO IT
WHEN I WAS A KID I ALWAYS THOUGHT GUNS WERE THE BEST WAY.

IS THAT GRANDPA TAKEDA'S WAY OF SIMPLY STANDING HERE AND SHOOTING ARAKABUTO WON'T WORK
BUT NOW I FEEL...

AND HIS TORA-GE ISN'T A MATURE HUNTING DOG. TO TAKE OUT A PUPPY ISN'T RIGHT
A HUNTING BOW IS THE ONLY WAY

SHI COULD BECOME AN AMAZING PARTNER. DON'T LET THAT SLIP, DAISUKE.
I'D SAY ALTHOUGH YOU'RE TOO YOUNG, YOU NEED TO TAKE GONE'S PLACE IN TRAINING HIM.
A DOG ISN'T JUST SOMETHING THAT FOLLOWS YOU AROUND. A DOG IS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER
HUNTING METHODS ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING


SO OH, GO HOME! DOGS AREN'T ALLOWED IN THIS SHOP!
YOU COULDN'T USE IT. THE BOW ISN'T A TOY.
BOY, YOU WANT THE BOW?!
WATCH CAREFULLY. I'M NOT STUPID!
IDIOT! WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU OLD GIT?!
YOU..!


AH! THIS IS...
THIS HUNTING BOW!
I'LL TRAIN TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO USE IT.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, GIN?
WAIT!
WHAT THE... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
GIN, YOU..
NO WAY!

WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING.
GIN... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
JOHN AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDS.
THIS IS MY PARTNER.
NOW, YOU AND I... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
ARF!
ARF!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY: KEI
EDITING BY: WWW.GINGASITE.NET
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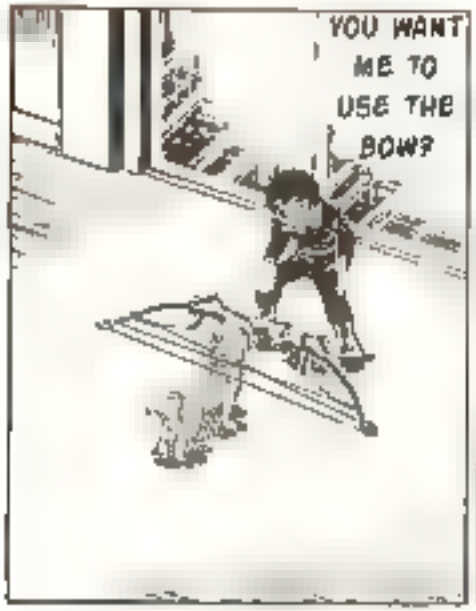

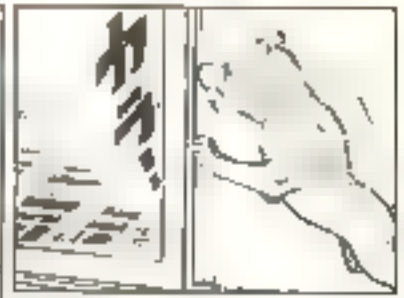

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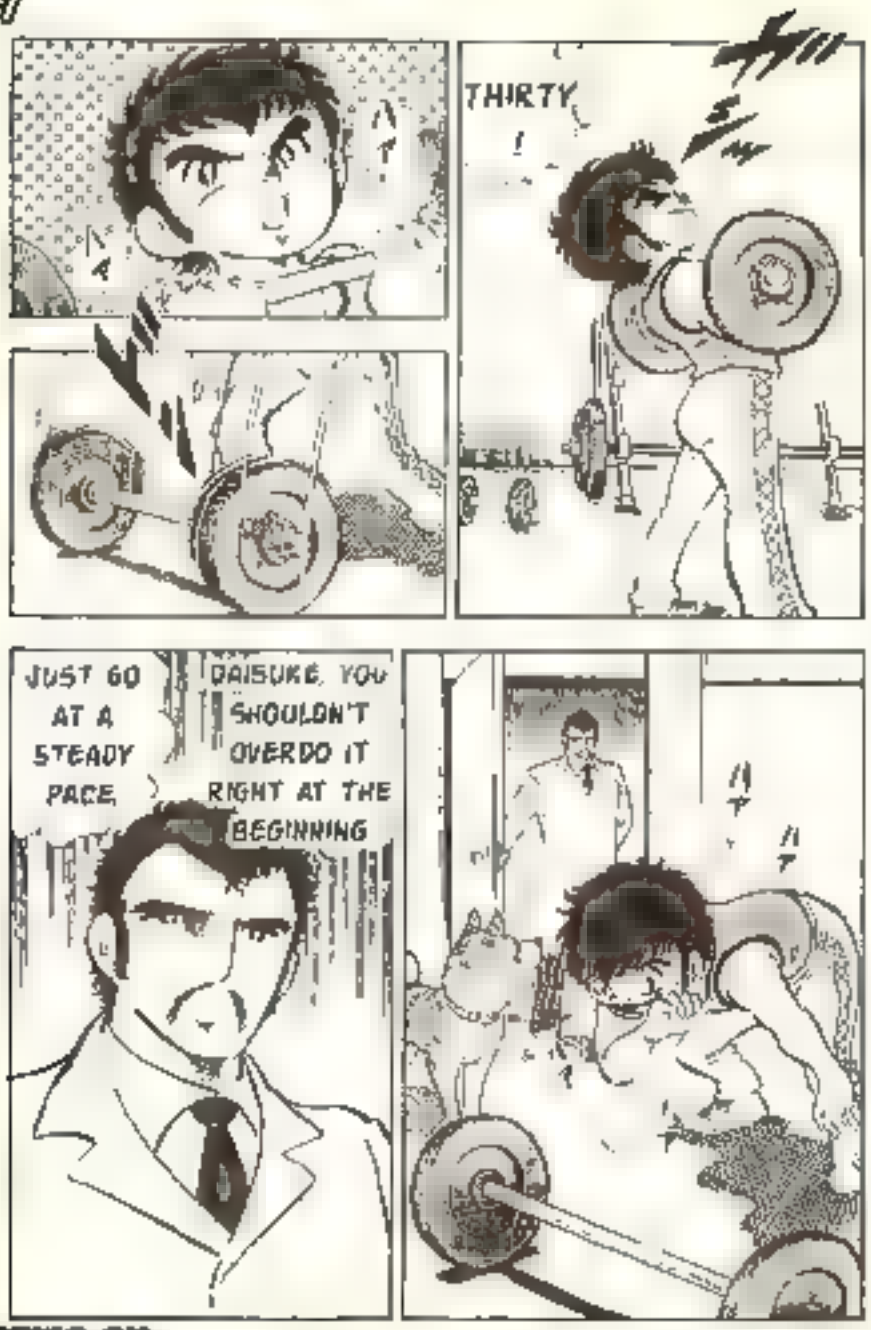
KEI



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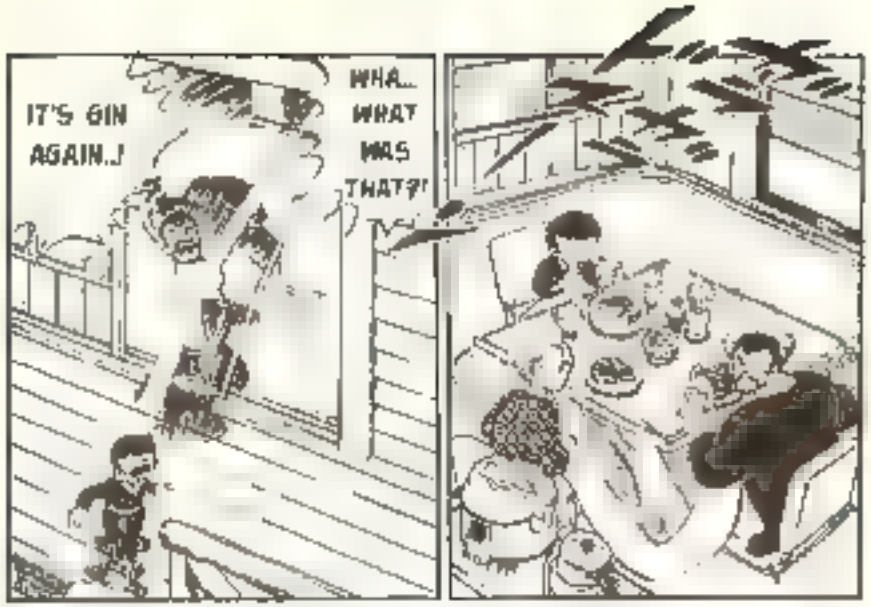
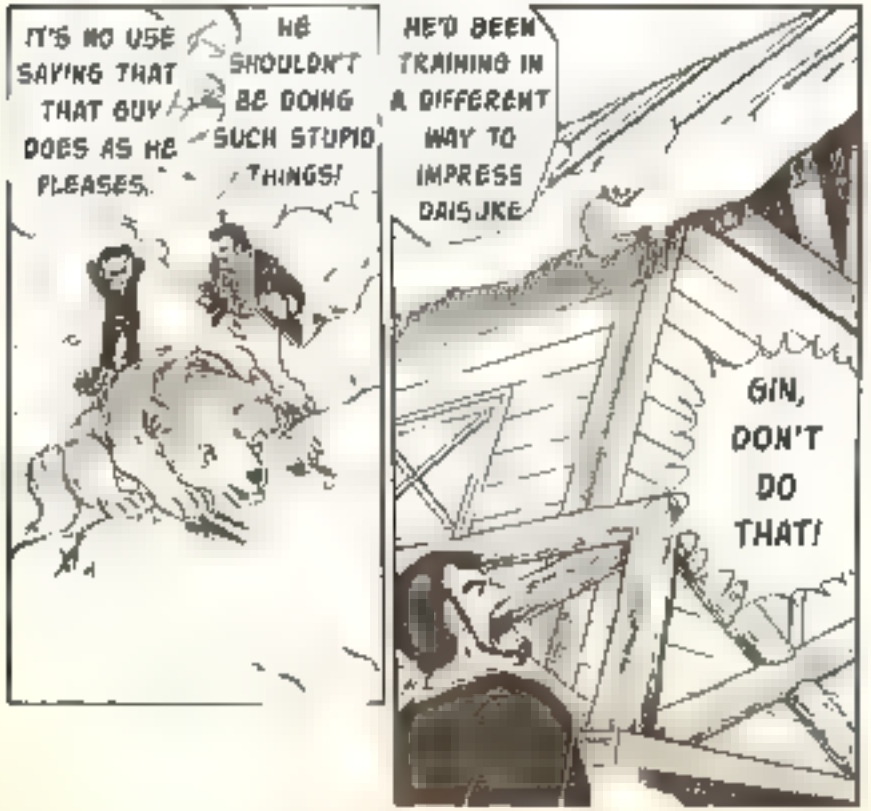
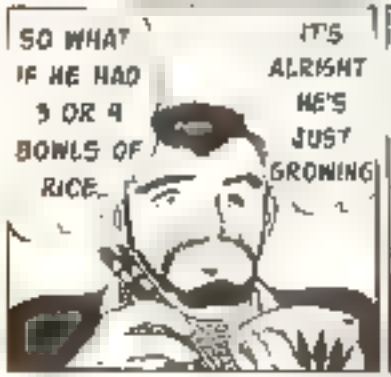
CHAPTER 4:
DEPARTURE IN THE MORNING

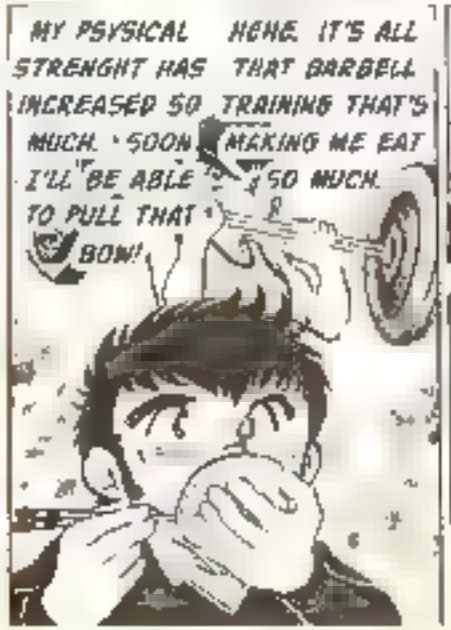

IT'S GIN AGAIN..!
WHA... WHAT WAS THAT?!


IT'S NO USE SAYING THAT THAT GUY DOES AS HE PLEASES.
HE SHOULDN'T BE DOING SUCH STUPID THINGS!
HE'D BEEN TRAINING IN A DIFFERENT WAY TO IMPRESS DAISUKE
GIN, DON'T DO THAT!

WHAT?
DAISUKE, YOU'VE BEEN ACTING A BIT STRANGE RECENTLY...

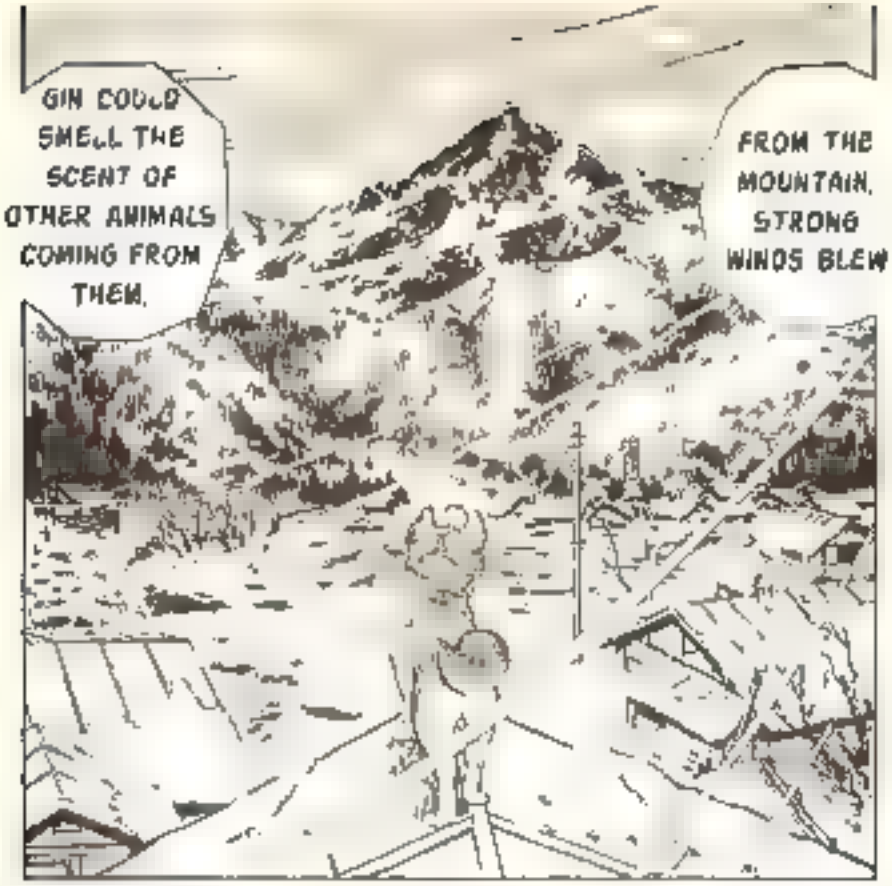

SO WHAT IF HE HAD 3 OR 4 BOWLS OF RICE.
IT'S ALRIGHT HE'S JUST GROWING

OR WERE YOU JUST REALLY HUNGRY?
YOU'VE EATEN SO MUCH THIS MORNING. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?


MY PSYSICAL STRENGHT HAS INCREASED SO MUCH. SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO PULL THAT BOW!
HEHE. IT'S ALL THAT BARBELL TRAINING THAT'S MAKING ME EAT SO MUCH.

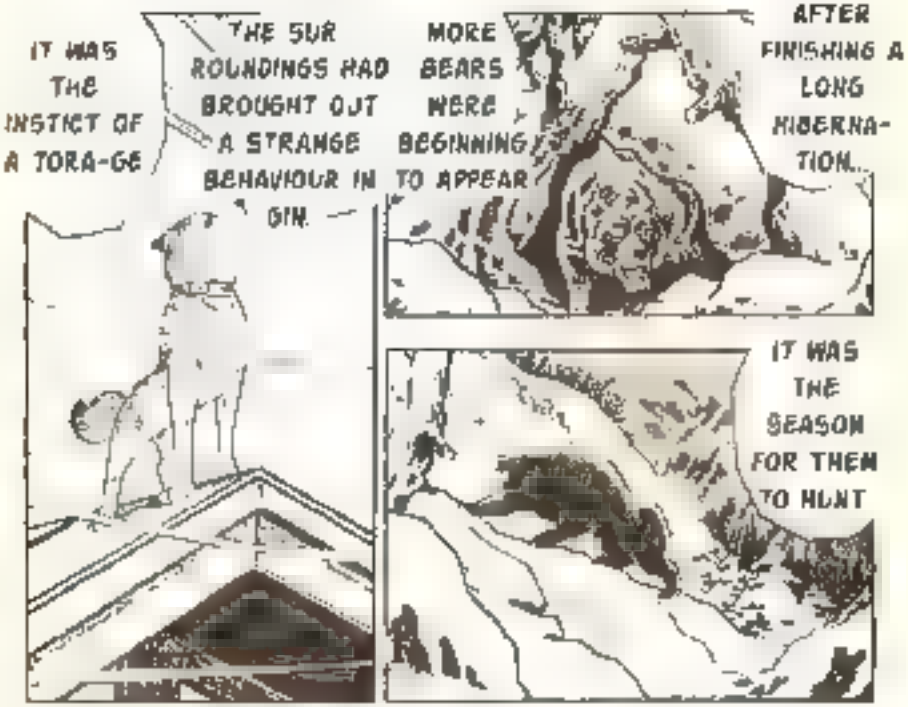
BUH!
I HAD SIX...

YOU'RE KIDDING ME..!
S... SIX?!


GIN COULD SMELL THE SCENT OF OTHER ANIMALS COMING FROM THEM.
FROM THE MOUNTAIN, STRONG WINDS BLEW

HE IMAGINED THE BATTLES AND THE OBSTACLES THAT MAY ONE DAY CROSS HIS PATH.
EVERY DAY, GIN WOULD GO TO THIS POINT TO OBSERVE THEM...

THE MOUNTAIN LOOKED BLACK FROM A DISTANCE
IN NORTH EASTERN JAPAN IN THE LATE SPRING OF MAY.

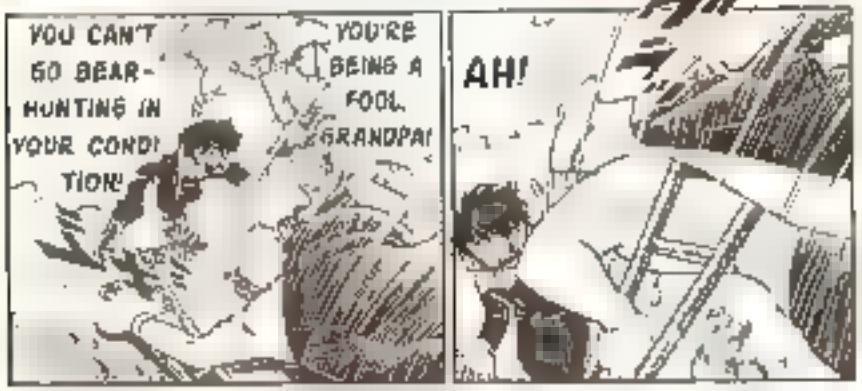

IT WAS THE INSTICT OF A TORA-GE
THE SURROUNDINGS HAD BROUGHT OUT A STRANGE BEHAVIOUR IN GIN.
MORE BEARS WERE BEGINNING TO APPEAR
AFTER FINISHING A LONG HIBERNATION.
IT WAS THE SEASON FOR THEM TO HUNT

GIN'S LEGS WERE GROWING STRONGER.
EVERYDAY HE JUMPED CLOSER TO THE ROOF.
IT WASN'T ONLY THAT.
IT WAS INCREASING THE STRENGHT IN HIS LEGS EACH TIME.
THIS WAS VITAL FOR THE SURVIVAL OF A HOUND.
30...
31...
32...
DAISUKE DIDN'T TAKE NOTICE OF THEM.
THE VILLAGERS THOUGHT IT WAS STUPID.
WHO COULD LIKE SUCH A STRANGE DOG?

ARF!
ARF!
YELP!
HAHA. FOR YOU IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY'VE COME OUT HERE TO SEE GIN!
WELL, LOOK AT THAT.

WH..
WHAT?!
WASN'T
IT
GREAT?
I DID IT!
WAH!
HAH! DID
YOU SEE
THAT?!

LET'S GO.. IT'S TIME TO BRING DOWN BEARS.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, GIN?

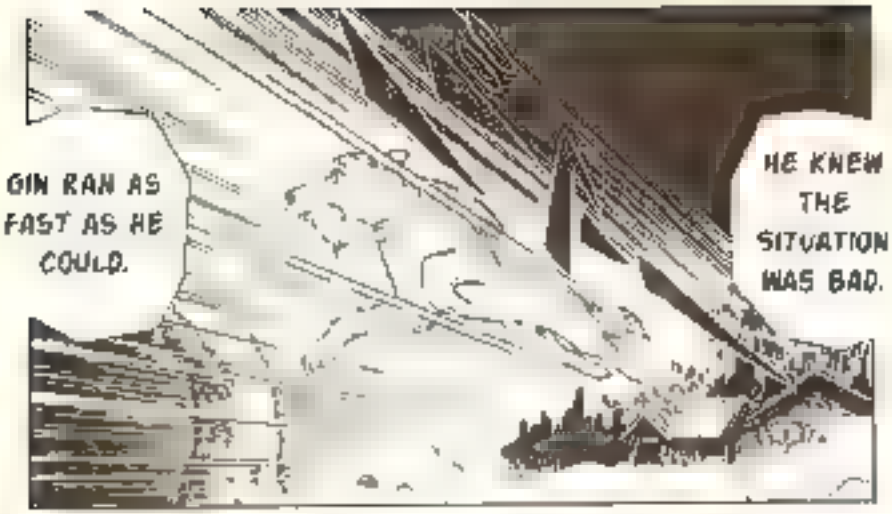

YOU CAN'T GO BEAR-HUNTING IN YOUR CONDITION!
YOU'RE BEING A FOOL, GRANDPA!
AH!

SOMEHOW.. WE MUST GET HIM BACK TO THE HOUSE.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, DAISUKE?
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN HELP GRANDPA!
HURRY AND CALL FOR MR. HIDETOSHI!
GIN! GET MR HIDETOSHI!

YEAH.. HE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THINGS HERE WHEN HE'S BEEN CONFINED TO BEDREST.
GONE IS ALREADY ALMOST 70 YEARS OLD.. HE CAN'T REALLY HUNT BEARS ANYMORE.

I DON'T KNOW, GRANDPA IS OLD AS IT IS.
HEY, DAISUKE.. HOW LONG DO YOU GET TO KEEP GIN?

GRA.. GRAND-PA!


GIN RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD.
HE KNEW THE SITUATION WAS BAD.

GIN DIDN'T LET ANY-THING GET IN THE WAY.
EVEN WHEN AN OBSTA-CLE STOOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES,

HE RAN DIRECTLY FOR-WARDS.

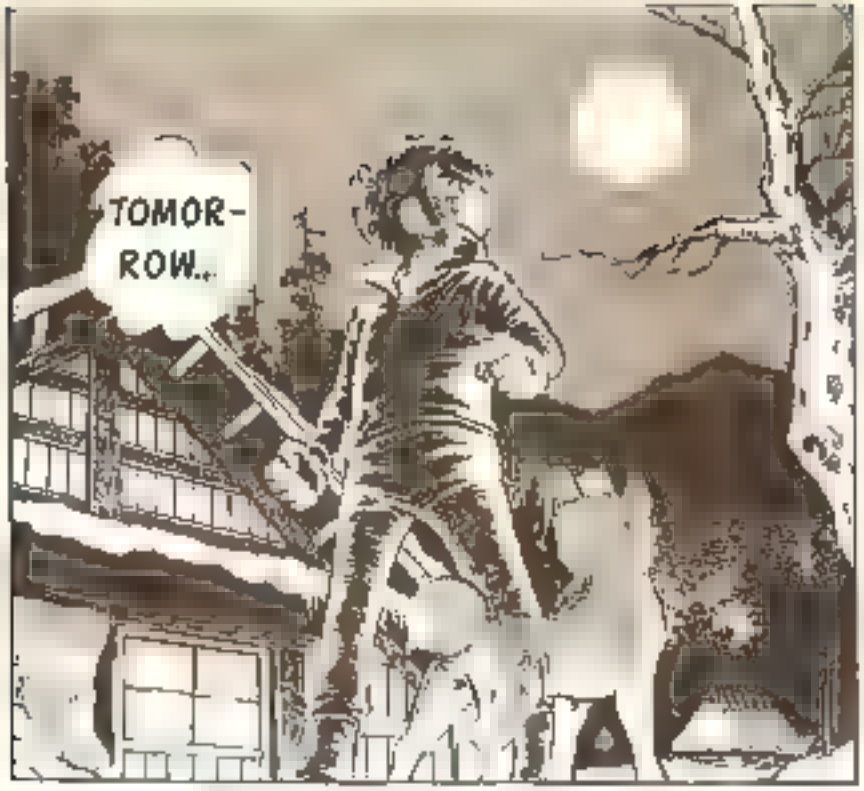
WH.. WHAT THE HELL?!
MY GOD! LOOK AT THAT!

YOU'LL BE FINE. I ll TAKE YOU MYSELF!

D.. DAISUKE! YOU..!

LET'S GO...
AL-RIGHT!

IT'S GIN, THAT TORA-GE!
IT'S A DOG!
WOAHH
...WERE IMPROVING ALL THE TIME.
THE NATURE OF GIN'S ABILI-TIES.
HE LOOKED LIKE A SHOOTING STAR. NOW, GIN WAS NO LONGER A PUPPY, BUT AN ADULT
AS THE MOON-LIGHT SHONE UPON HIM, GIN'S ENTIRE BODY GLEAMED A SILVER COLOUR

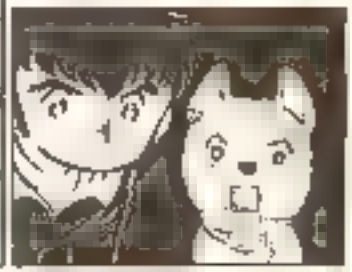

TOMOR-
ROW..

WE'LL
FIGHT
AKAKA-
BUTO!

ARF!

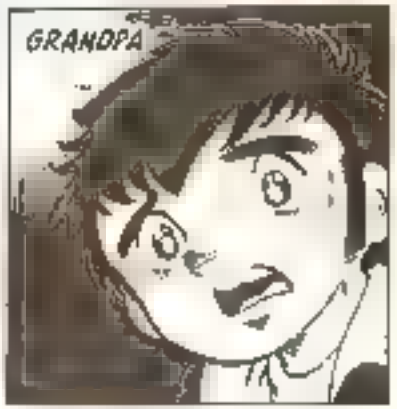
LET'S
DO IT,
GIN!

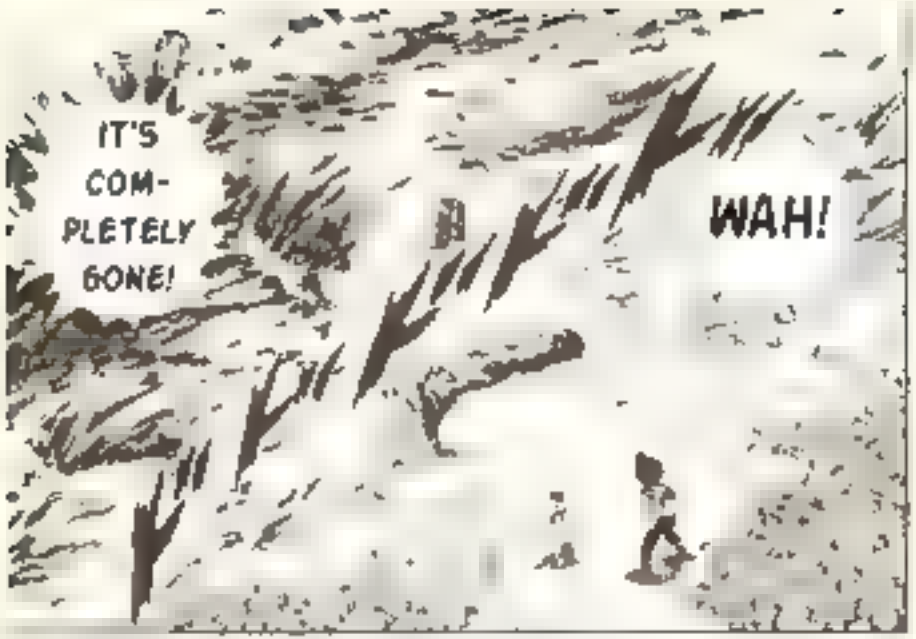
YOU WERE
ABLE TO
CARRY GRANDPA
TAKEDA HERE BY
YOURSELF.
WHAT A
RELIEF



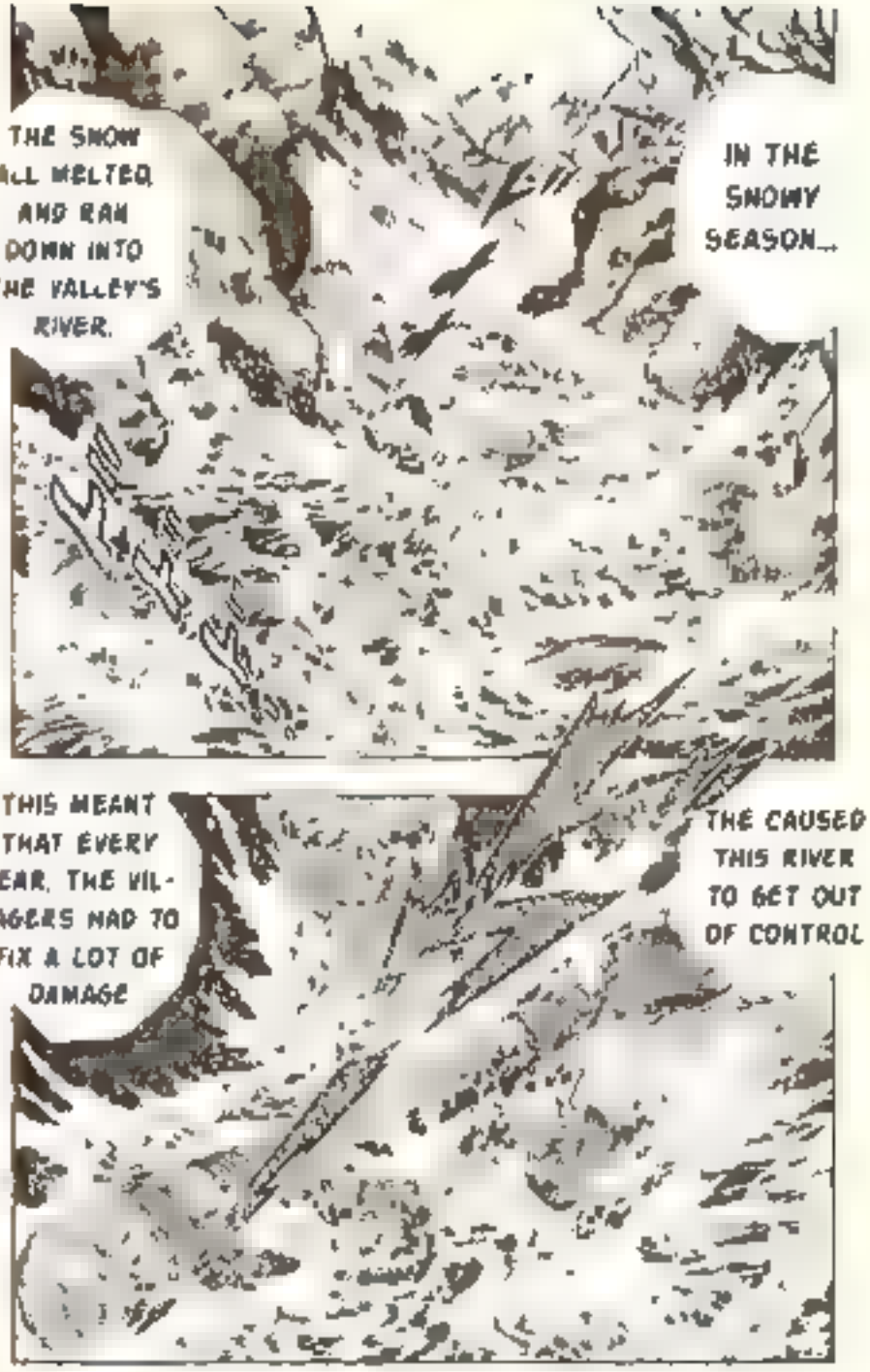
WE MUST
GO AFTER
THAT
BEAR..
DAISUKE,
WHERE'S
GIN..?

IT'S ALREADY
LATE YOU
SHOULD GO
BACK HOME
I'LL KEEP
AN EYE
ON HIM
TONIGHT


GRANDPA


IT'S COM-PLETELY GONE!
WAH!

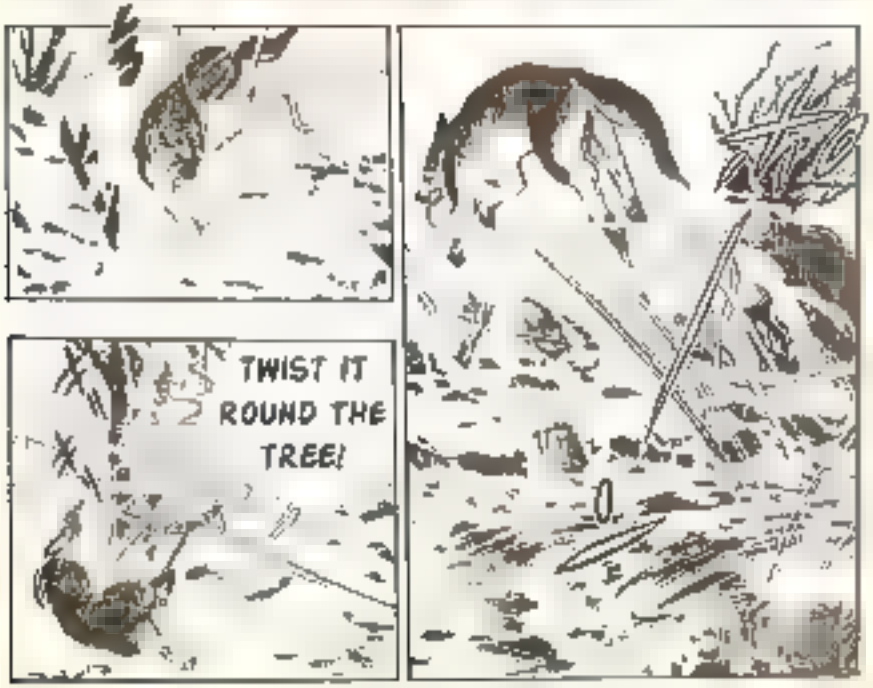
JEEZ NOW THEY'LL HAVE TO BUILD ANOTHER ONE
IT HAPPENS TO THIS BRIDGE EVERY YEAR
!?

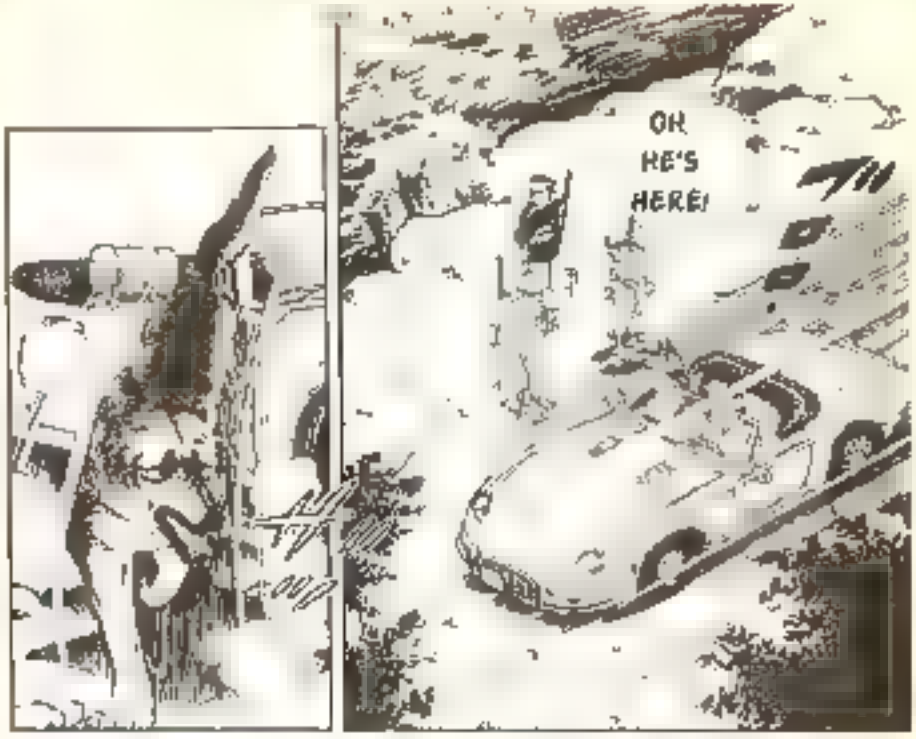

THE SNOW ALL MELTED AND RAN DOWN INTO THE VALLEY'S RIVER.
IN THE SNOWY SEASON...
THIS MEANT THAT EVERY YEAR, THE VIL-LAGERS HAD TO FIX A LOT OF DAMAGE
THE CAUSED THIS RIVER TO GET OUT OF CONTROL

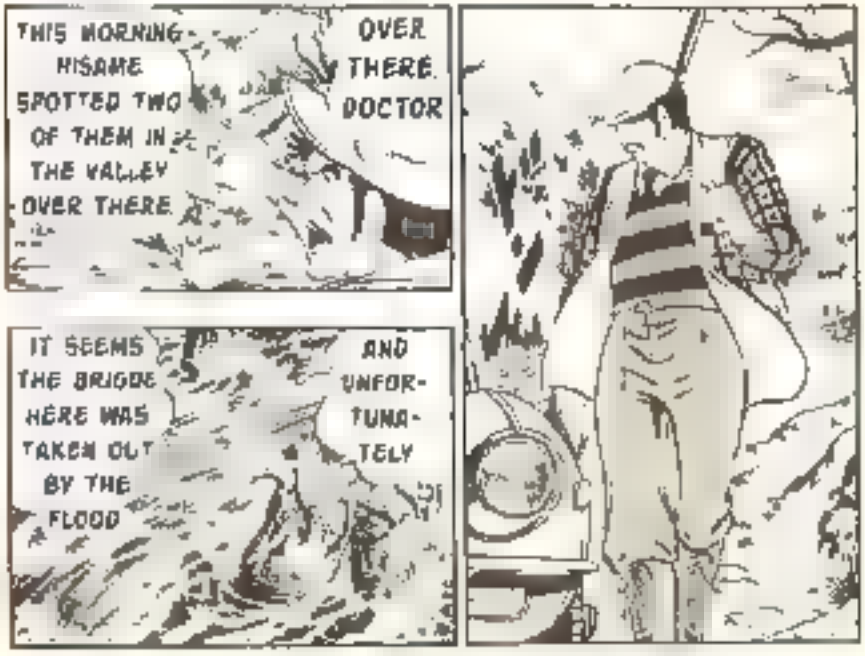
AH. THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! DAMMIT..
AND SO CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE!
IT HAS CUBS!
FORGIVE ME FOR THIS.
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR.
LET'S GO. IT MAY BE SPRING. BUT WE HAVE TO CROSS THAT RIVER.
GIN... NOW WE CAN'T BE SURE OF WHICH WAY THEY'RE GOING...

GRR
...
L..LOOK OVER THERE, GIN!

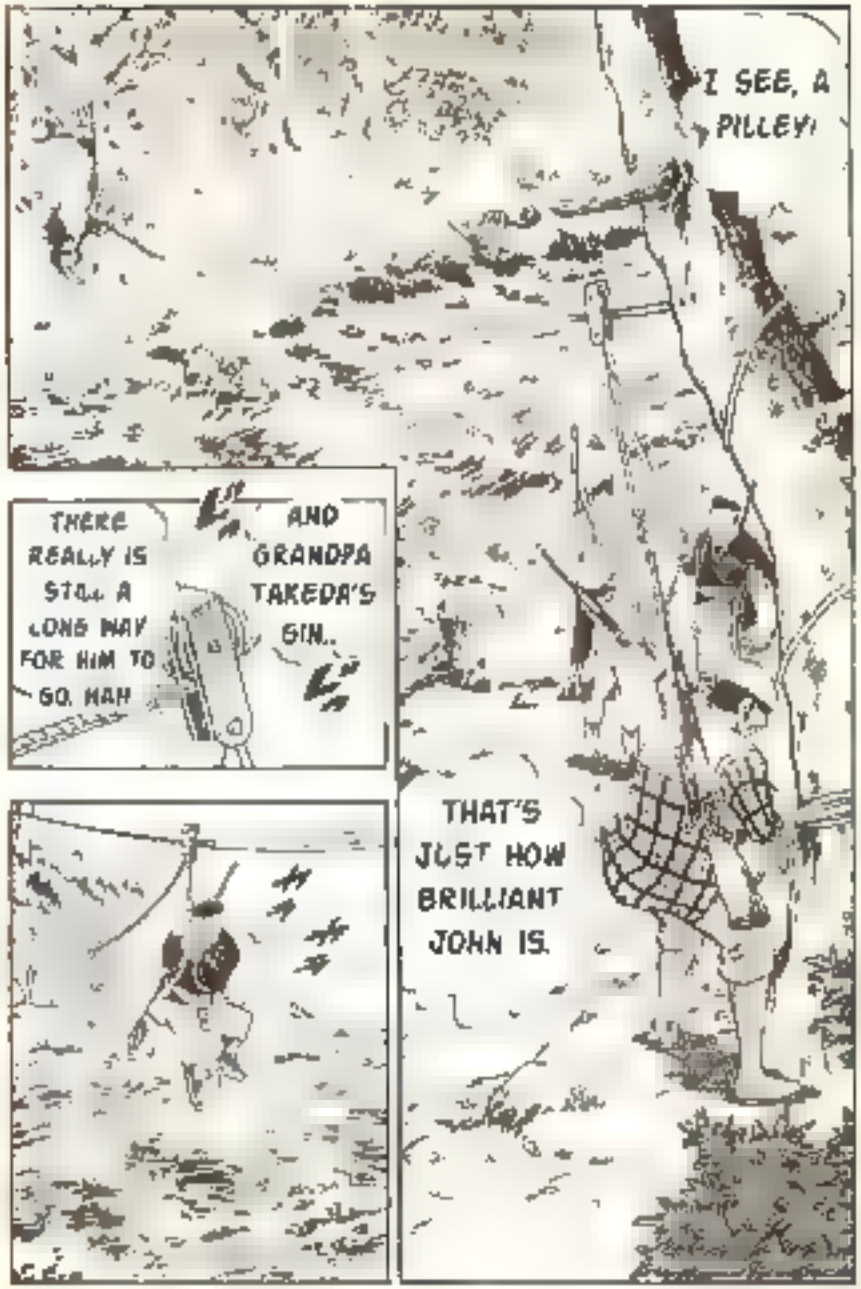
JUMP OVER THE RIVER, JOHN!


TWIST IT ROUND THE TREE!


OH HE'S HERE!

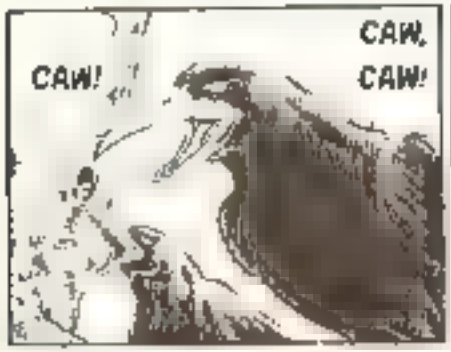

THIS MORNING HISAME SPOTTED TWO OF THEM IN THE VALLEY OVER THERE
OVER THERE DOCTOR
IT SEEMS THE BRIDGE HERE WAS TAKEN OUT BY THE FLOOD
AND UNFORTUNATELY

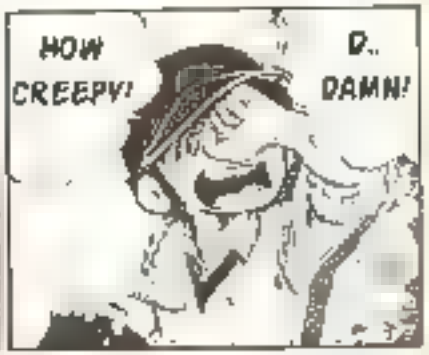
THERE'S STILL A LOT OF SNOW ON THE GROUND.
BE CAREFUL, GIN...


I SEE, A PILLEY!
THERE REALLY IS STILL A LONG WAY FOR HIM TO GO, HAH
AND GRANDPA TAKEDA'S GIN..
THAT'S JUST HOW BRILLIANT JOHN IS.

LET'S FILL OUR STOMACHS FIRST.
LET'S NOT BE IMPA-TIENT
GIN, YOU CAN EAT IT...
I CAN'T
HE WAS FEELING SO HELPLESS AND UNEASY THAT HE COULDN'T IMAGINE GETTING FOOD DOWN HIS THROAT
AS SOON AS HE'D ENTERED THE MOUNTAINS, DAISUKE'S HIGH SPIRITS WERE REPLACED WITH HESITATION
SINCE DAISUKE HAD SPOTTED A SIGN OF THE BEAR, GIN'S SENSES WERE COMING ALIVE.
BUT GIN WAS EATING.

FINALLY WE'RE GETTING CLOSER
AND IT'S FRESH...
LOOK AT THAT GIN. IT'S SHIT.
WHINE
W...WAIT A SECOND!
GIN!
HOW CAN GIN BE SO CALM?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DAISUKE? YOU CAN'T BE SCARED!


CAW!
CAW.
CAW!


HOW CREEPY!
D..
DAMN!

IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY WERE SAYING: "WHEN YOU DIE, WE'LL CLEAN YOU UP"
THE CROWS SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE LAUGHING...

CAW.
CAW

Eiiii!

YOU BASTARD!
CAW!
CAW!

ヒュー
ヒュー
ヒュー
HE MUST TAKE SHELTER SOMEWHERE. QUICK!
SHIT JUST AS I THOUGHT!

HE HAD INTENDED TO JUST SCARE THEM OFF BUT THE ARROW WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CROW'S BODY.
IT WASN'T HIS INTENTION TO SHOOT IT
HE FELT THE DREADFUL POWER OF A BOW.
HOWEVER, HE WAS FEELING HIMSELF BECOMING STRONGER
GUILT SWEPT OVER HIM
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME DAISUKE HAD KILLED A LIVING CREATURE WITH HIS OWN HANDS
SOMETHING HAD SNAPPED INSIDE HIM...
AND AT THE SAME TIME.

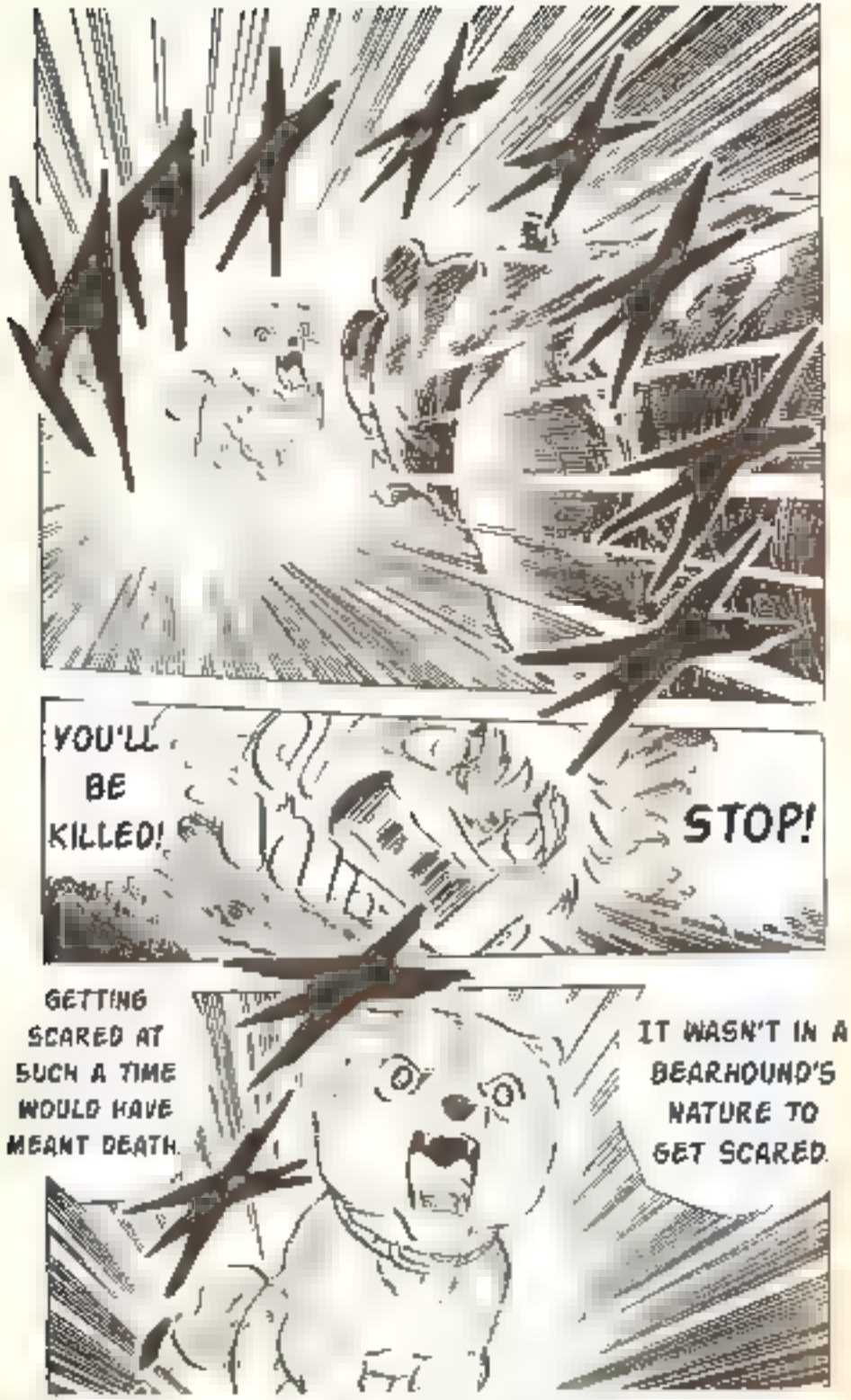
GET BACK, GIN!
HUH?
GRRR RR!
GRR!

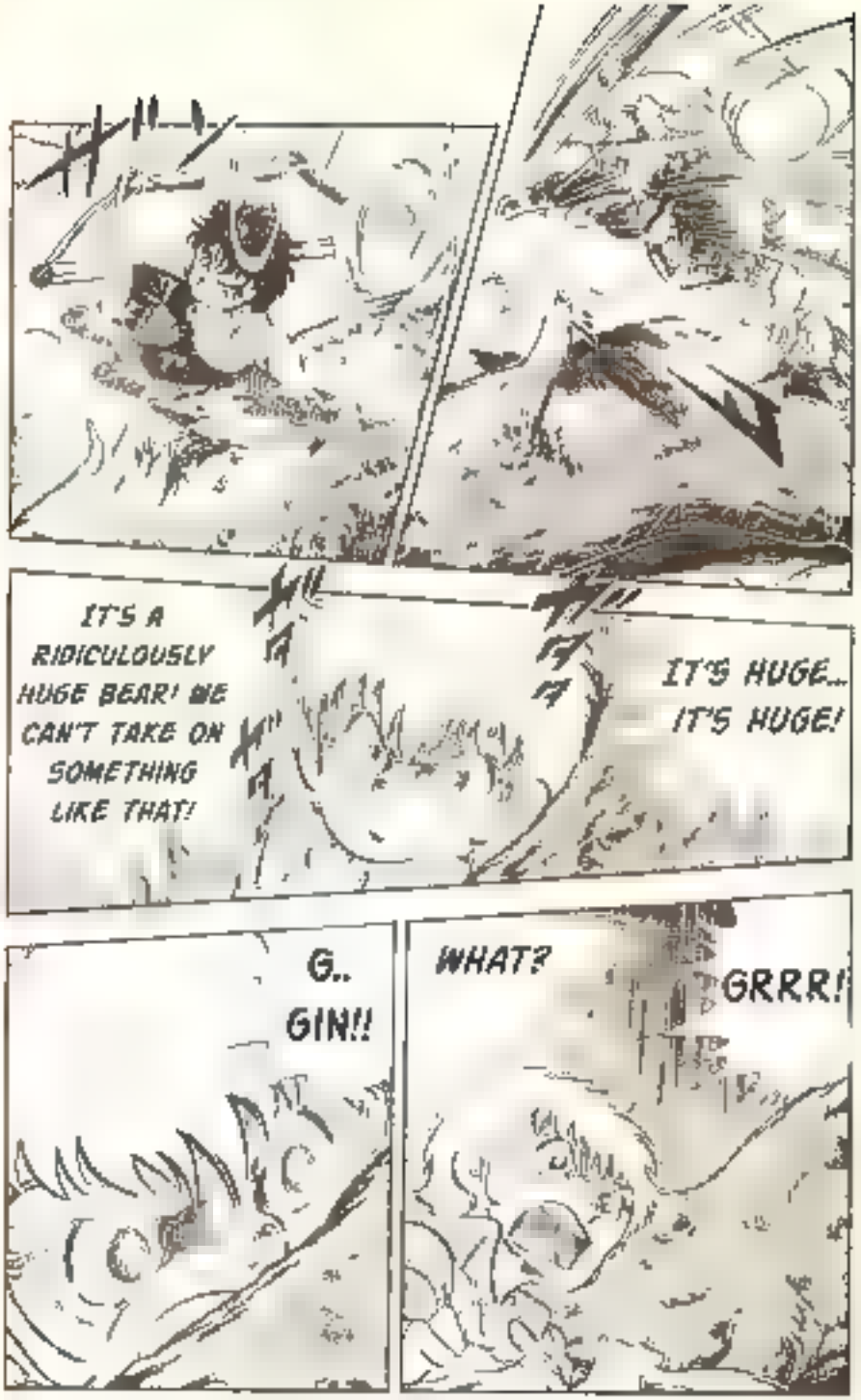
URGH, I'M SOAKED!
THIS LOOKS GOOD_

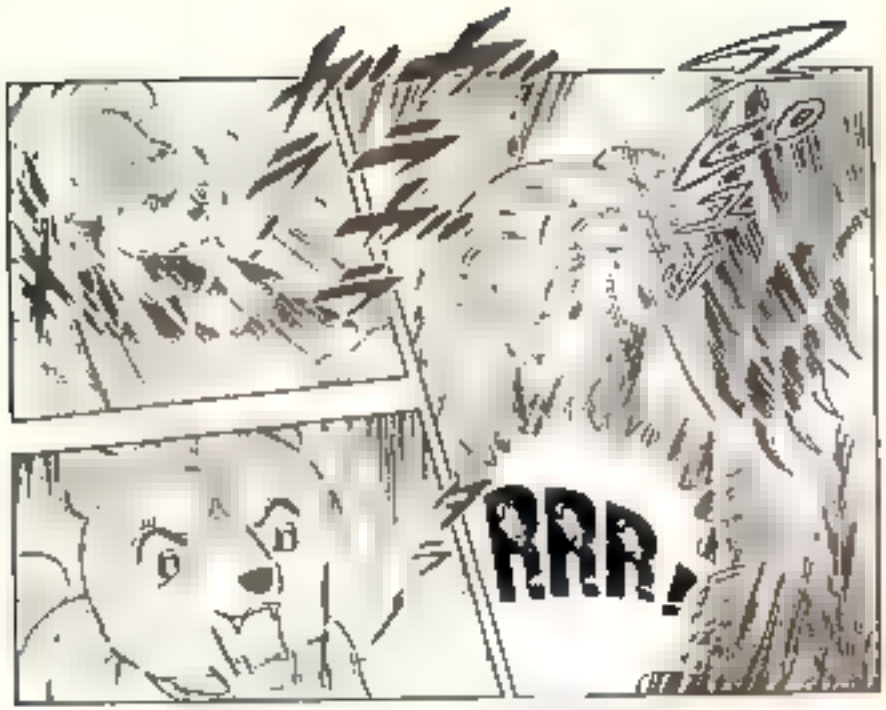
IT'LL COME RIGHT AT YOU!
GIN! GIN, COME BACK!

EEK!

ROAR!


YOU'LL BE KILLED!
STOP!
GETTING SCARED AT SUCH A TIME WOULD HAVE MEANT DEATH.
IT WASN'T IN A BEARHOUND'S NATURE TO GET SCARED.


IT'S A RIDICULOUSLY HUGE BEAR! WE CAN'T TAKE ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S HUGE... IT'S HUGE!
G.. GIN!!
WHAT?
GRRR!


RRR!

WOOF!
WOOF!
IN THIS KIND OF WEATHER, WE CAN'T USE OUT GUNS.
IN THAT CASE...
WHAT'S THAT?!
AH!
IN THE NORTHEN MOUNTAINS IN SPRING, FOOD WAS SCARCE
IT WAS A BEAR THAT HAD JUST COME OUT OF HIBER-NATION.
JOHN SENSED THAT THIS BEAR WANTED MORE THAN THOSE SIMPLE THINGS.
IT WAS LIVING OF SIMPLE THINGS LIKE SPROUTING PLANTS AND RIVER CRABS.

WHERE CAN WE SHELTER NOW..?
GEEZ ...
HEY, IT HIT THE PEAK!
GET DOWN!
AIK!!

THAT SHEP-HERD?
JOHN?
THAT'S NOT SO.
EVERYONE, A REAL BEAR HOUND DOESN'T NEED TO BE A TORA-GE AKITA LIKE GIN. ...
NOW WATCH THIS FOR PROOF.
LEAVE IT TO THE DOGS THAT HAVE WISDOM AND PHYSICAL STRENGHT
GO!!

FOOLS! DON'T RUN OFF!
SHIT! IT NOTICE US! LET'S GO!
WE HAVE JOHN.
WAIT A SECOND.
KEEP THE DISTANCE SHORTER THAN 600 YEARDS.
ALL RIGHT, JOHN?

GRR,

IN HIS FEAR, DAISUKE'S BODY WAS SO FROZEN THAT HE FORGOT TO SHOOT THE BOW.
WHAT SHOULD I DO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

ROAR,
GIN... GIN!

KYAA.
THIS WAS A HUGE THING FOR LITTLE GIN TO BE FACING, AND HE WAS RELYING ON DAISUKE'S HELP
GIN WAS WAITING FOR DAISUKE TO FIRE THE ARROWS

GIN'S ENDURANCE WAS NEARING IT'S LIMIT
BUT, DAISUKE WAS COMPLETELY UNABLE TO HELP

GUA
AH!
DAMMIT!
THEIR WEAK POINT IS THE CENTRE-LINE OF THEIR BODY. AIM FOR THAT!
THIS MAKES YOU FORGET HOW BIG THEY REALLY ARE.
WHEN BEARS GET ENRAGED THEY LOOK TWICE AS BIG.

UAAH!
GIN!
WAH!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
KEI

GINGA NAGAREBOSHI GIN
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